December 2007 Rs.10/- 80 Pages

# GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

## Christmas Special!

Just answer this simple question & win exciting prizes.

**Who activates the alarm in the bank?**

**SMS** the answer to **56767600**, email to **poppins@parle.biz** or post it to **Parle Poppins** c/o Kruti Promotions & Events 103, 1st Floor, Linkway Estate, Malad Link Road, Malad (West), Mumbai - 400064 with your **name, age and address.**

**1000*** lucky winners will get Sipper cool water bottle!

1st Prize* Apple Ipod

2nd Prize* Philips Mp3 Player

3rd Prize* Kodak Camera

* Conditions apply : Prizes based on lucky draw o all correct enteries. Last date of entry 31st Dec 07.

# CONTENTS

## Regular Features


Editorial - 2
Jokes - 5
Fact Zone - 12
Poets' Corner - 34
Letter Box - 38
Colour Burst - 60
Penpals - 78


## Christmas Specials


Cover Story - 3
Lets Cook up - 28
Creative Corner - 50


## Hot Favourites


Playground - 6
Gullu's Crossword - 15
Grandmaworm - 30
Hello Doctor - 42
Pottering Around - 53
View Point - 66
Billu - 80



DECEMBER 2007
Vol.XX, No.5



KALKI GROUP
HOUSE of QUALITY


Of all created things the loveliest.
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

## Highlights of Next Month

**CITY EXPRESS: CHENNAI**

**Humour Special!**

**Serials:**

Treasure Ahoy - 70
Computer Saga - 57

**Cottage Number 13**

Brand New Exciting Mystery Serial by **Geetha Canpadee**


GOKULAM
THE Magazine for Children

KALKI GROUP
HOUSE of QUALITY

GOKULAM

**printed and published at**
Bharathan Press
**on behalf of**
Bharathan Publications
Private Limited
Kalki buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal,
Chennai - 600 032

**printer and publisher :**
Lakshmi Natarajan

**editor:**
Seetha Ravi

**layouts :**
S.Stephen
M.Mohan
S.Karthikeyan

**telephones :**
2225 1522,
2225 0623,
2225 1324

**fax :**
044 - 2225 1021

**e-mails :**
**editorial :**
gokulam@kalkiweekly.com

**subscriptions :**
subscription@kalkiweekly.com

**other information :**
info@kalkiweekly.com

**subscription rates :**
**inland :** annual
Rs.120/-
**overseas : annual**
26 US Dollars

*THE Magazine for Children*

# Homework and Housework!

**Dear Reader,**

"Mom! My socks are sooo dirty! I need a new pair!"

"Mom! Is my lunch box ready? It's getting late!"

"Dad! I need to buy a new scale; this one broke last evening!"

Does your home reverberate with such exclamations every morning? Well, I'm not surprised if it does!

These days, both father and mother go to work in most families. It has become an economic necessity.

If you think your day is loaded with schoolwork - homework routine besides studying for tests, just think of your parents' plight. Your mom has to prepare breakfast and pack lunch for the entire family before she gets ready for office. Your dad has to scan the newspaper, prepare the beds, do some dusting and other chores before he rushes to the bathroom for a quick shave and bath. It is possible that both have brought some urgent office files for disposal at home.

In a good household, the work is shared by all; including the children. You can help with washing clothes and dishes, laying the table for breakfast or dinner and most important, by taking care of yourself without being over dependent on your parents. If you are in your teens, whether boy or girl, you can help mother with her cooking. A little bit of house work will be a welcome change from study routine and teach you to be independent too!

**- Editor**

**Teacher:** Ramu, How can you prove the world is round?

**Ramu:** I never said it was, miss.

**Teacher:** Kittu, you know the earth is round. Give three reasons.

**Kittu:** My mother says the earth is round. My father also says the earth is round. And now, you are saying it.

**- Vyshali Bhat, Std. VII, Little Rock Indian School, Chanlar, Brahmavar, Karnataka**

**Raju:** Granny, can you see without your spectacles?

**Granny:** Yes dear! But why are you asking?

**Raju:** Actually Granny, I accidentally broke your spectacles.

**- M.Arshiya Fathima, Std. II, I.C.V.Nursery & Primary School, Vellore - 1**

**Doctor:** Pinky, what kind of filling do you want in your tooth?

**Pinky:** Chocolate, doctor uncle!

**- Suresh K. Anjum, Kolkata**

# Green Cheeks!

**Mom:** Eat your spinach, Nicky. It'll put colour in your cheeks.

**Nicky:** But who want's green cheeks, mom?

## Fancy Authors!

1) Horror films - by *Frank N.Stein*

2) Stamp Collecting - by *Ivor Stamp*

3) Long Distance Running - by *B.Lister*

4) Seasoning for Cooking - by *Sal T.Pepper*

**- Sohan Uday Bhat, Std VII, Basaveshwar International Public School, Karnataka**

drawing by: Ramya M.V.S.S.N.M New Horizon Public School

# Wish You A Merry Christmas!

December 25th is a day of celebration and of fun and frolic. As the long awaited winter holidays arrive, the Christmas spirit builds up. The lovely snowflakes in some places, dear Santa, decorated homes, complete with Christmas Star, mistletoe, the good-luck plant ivy, laurels, the soft music of the Christmas carols and last but not the least the beautifully decorated and illuminated Christmas tree are some of the essential elements of Christmas. Children eager to open their gifts certainly provide a unique warmth to the coldest day of the year. The dark night sky, the chilly winters all provide the perfect setting for the reigning red and green colors that cheer up everyone. People visit their families and organise some of the most lavish parties. The most awaited festival, Christmas, signifies love and kindness, joy and happiness.

Christmas is a popular festival celebrated throughout the world. Though the main theme behind the celebrations is the same everywhere - Birth of Jesus Christ- each

country follows slightly different customs to celebrate Christmas.

*(Source: Internet)*

**- Yajnaseni Guha, Std.VII, The Future Foundation School, Kolkata**

*Cover design:* ***Jayaraj***

'Snowman' picture: ***R.Janani, Std.III, The Hindu Colony Chellammal Vidyalaya, Chennai***

## Christmas Sudoku

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | | R | L | | |
| | | | | O | |
| A | | | | | L |
| | | S | | C | |
| R | | | | | A |
| O | | | | R | |

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x2 box contains the letters C,A,R,O,L and S.

**- G.Sahiti, Std.X, Kendriya Vidhyalaya,Secunderabad**

Answer:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | O | R | L | A | S |
| S | A | L | C | O | R |
| A | C | O | R | S | L |
| L | R | S | A | C | O |
| R | S | C | O | L | A |
| O | L | A | S | R | C |

# Not a Child's

Children love playing with toy cars. But when they grow old, they abandon cars and take a fancy to cricket! Very few stick on to their car race fascination. From Tamil Nadu, we have Naren Karthikeyan. And now, after Naren, a sparkling new entry - Karun Chandok. A promising young Formula One car champion.

In the year 2000 alone, Karun secured the National Championship seven times! The taste of victory prompted him to participate in the world race. In addition, Karun secured Naren Karthikeyan's able guidance.

Before getting to know what Formula One is all about, listen to what Chandok has got to say about his race love :

"It really is a dream come true for me. Ever since I was about four years old I have dreamt of being behind the wheel of a Formula One car. And this is a day that not just myself, but my family and all who have supported me over the years, have yearned for in a long time."

True. This year has been very good for Chandok. He was able to establish himself in Europe. Also; Chandok is going to participate in the 2008 Formula One World Championship, representing a team called Red Bulls.

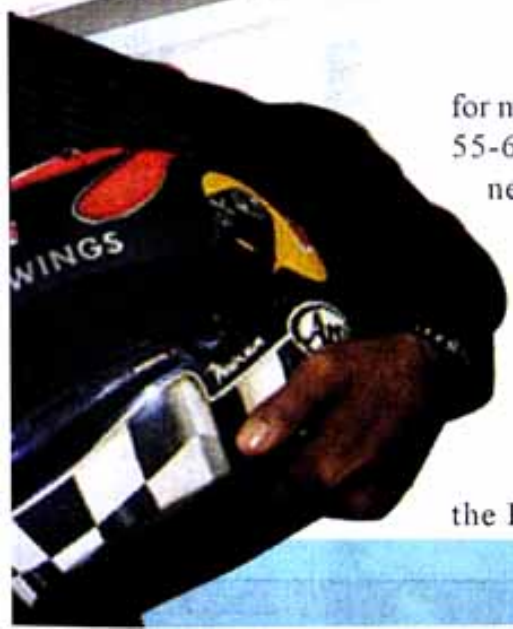
Before commencement of tests, Karun Chandok will be exposed to the participating team and the guidelines. Which means, Karun will be moving to UK, shortly.

# Game!

Well, what is Formula One all about? F1 is the superior version of a car race. Those who follow the guidelines provided by the Formular One car race are called F1 teams. The earliest Formula One race was held in the year 1946, after the Second World War.

Physical fitness is extremely important for motor sport. There are certain prerequisites to participate in the race. The chief among them is body weight. Those who exceed 72 kgs cannot participate.

So, Karun is busy with his physical training sessions. "For the last one month I have been working with a trainer in Oxford. He set out a program for me. I do a lot of cycling. Some days up to 55-60 kms. I do a lot of exercise for the neck, and light weights for the body" says Karun.




It's true that F1 race is not as popular as cricket, especially in India. But in rest of the world, there is an increasing fascination for car racing.

Hope Karun will help India catch the Formula One fever!

# The Valiant Swimmer

Those were the days of Dasara celebrations at Varanasi. At the bathing ghat, thousands of devotees were witnessing the grand celebrations. They stood on the ghat and in boats in the river Ganga.

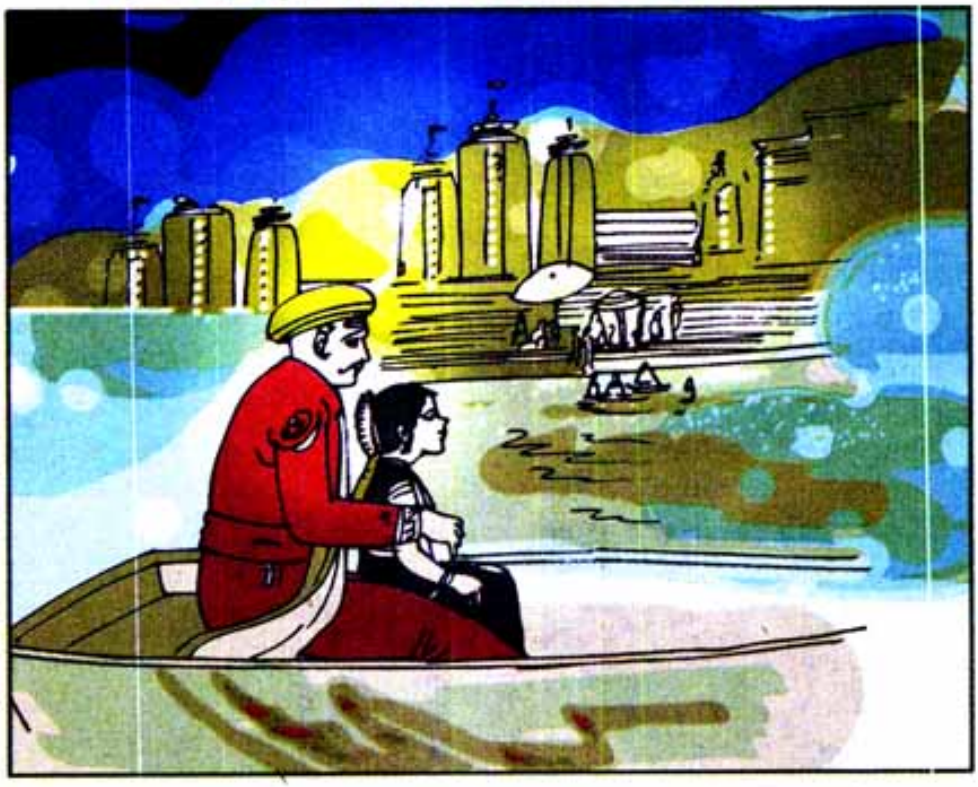
The Peshwa Bhaji Rao II, his brother and all the palace staff and Moraband and Thande with the royal family were there too. They viewed the scene from a beautifully decorated boat.

Moraband's seven year old daughter Manu sat on his lap.

Suddenly a crocodile came up from the river and people shouted:

"Crocodile... crocodile..!"

The crocodile moved towards some boys who were swimming in the river. One boy shouted:



"Look out! There's a crocodile... crocodile..!"

All the boys, except one, swam on to the ghat. The boat men and the soldiers saw the helpless boy shouting but could do nothing.

But Manu who was watching everything dived into the river, much to the dismay of her parents and others. She swam swiftly, caught hold of the boy and dragged him on to the nearby boat. The father hugged his daughter and said:

"You, my little girl, you jumped into the river and saved the boy risking your own life! What courage and what com passion towards those in distress!"

The little girl who performed this daring act was none other than the great and famous Lakshmi Bai, Rani of Jhansi who fought the British for the sake of her country's freedom. In the end she sacrificed her own life in a battle against the British.

**- Kolar Krishna Iyer**

# Oh, My Lord!

Story: N.Chokkan
Picture: Pillai

Many animals lived happily in a forest. Of them, Ellie elephant and Rocky rabbit were great pals. They loved each other dearly.

One day, Ellie fell ill! He had a bad cold. "Atishoo, atishoo!" he sneezed incessantly and the whole forest reverberated for three days!

Rocky felt sad. 'When would Ellie get better?' he wondered. The elephant was curled up with high fever and Rocky had no ore to play with!

Rocky went to the Murugan temple in the forest clearing and prayed hard: "Oh, my Lord! please make Ellie better very soon."

"Sure I will," said the little Lord; "But what will you do for me in return?"
" I will ride all the way here on Ellie's back and offer my hair to you!" replied Rocky.

Murugan cast His mind's eye on Ellie, and sure enough the fever vanished! Ellie was up again, ready to play all day.

The next day, both friends went back to the temple. Rocky rode on Ellie's back and offered his hair.

A month later, Rocky fell ill. It was Ellie's turn to pray and he prayed and promised exactly as Rocky did to the Little Lord.

"I promised Murugan that I would ride over to the temple on your back and offer my hair," said Ellie. Rocky just ran for his life!

Fact Zone

# A Teaspoon full

- A crocodile can shoot straight up out of the water and snatch out of the air, a bird that is flying overhead.
- Shrews are tiny rodents that eat all the time. If a shrew can't get food for even a few hours, it dies!
- The anableps is a fish that has tw eyes in each eyeball.
- Some fish hold their eggs in thei mouth for several weeks until the egg are ready to hatch.
- In Texas and Mexico, wate strides are called 'Jesus bugs' becaus they can walk on water!
- Some young caterpillars in

vice created. When we touch something we send a message to our brain at a speec of 200 km per hour!

- The word 'set' has 5 mean- ings as noun, 126 as verb and 10 as a participle adjective.
- The water pressure at 1000m below the surface, is equivalent to sever elephants standing on a dinner plate!

*(Source: GK and Amazing Facts Books)*

**- R.S.Madhumitha, Std.X, Anna Adarsh Mat.Hr.Sec. School, Chennai**

- Japanese Scientists have created the world's smallest remote- controlled humanoid robot 'i-Sobot', which was demonstrated in Tokyo, recently.

**- Suresh K. Anjum**

- A housefly lives only 14 days.
- An annoyed camel will spit at a person.
- Our sense of touch is more refined than any other de-

# of Opossums!

crease their weight by four thousand times in just a couple of months. If a newborn human baby grew at the same rate, it would weigh thirteen tons at the end of two months!

- Pandas are not bears. They belong to a unique animal family.
- Newborn opossums are so tiny that two dozen of them can fit into a teaspoon!

**- S.Siddarthan, Std.VI,**
**Mahatma Montessori**
**Mat.Hr.Sec.School, Madurai**

- 75 percent of wild birds die before they are six months old.
- In Denmark there are twice as many pigs as people!
- A giraffe can clean its ears with its 50 cm tongue!

**- Amulya.Amar, Std.IX,**
**Carmel School, Bengalooru**

- Bermuda is a British colony of about 150 small coral islands located in the Atlantic ocean, about 900 kms off coast of The United States. Great Bermuda, the main island, is linked to some of the other islands by bridges. The islands are hilly and covered with beautiful vegetation but there are no lakes and no rivers. So the people depend on rain for fresh water. The capital Hamilton stands on the Great Bermuda.

More than half of the people are descended from the Africans who worked as slaves on the plantations until 1834. Bermudas parliment was formed in 1620! This makes it oldest in the commonwealth outside the British isles.

**- S.Haripprikesh, Std. VII,**
**T.M.H.N.U.M.H.S.School, Theni**

# Wow!

*Drawings featured on the top of this issue's pages are by :*

**NIDHI VARGHESE,**
Std.V, Canossa H.S.,
Mumbai

**MUKESH MURALI IYER,**
Std.IV, Don Bosco School,
Kalyan(W), Mumbai

**AVINASH SOMANATHAN,**
Std.VI, South Indian
Association High School,
Mumbai

**S.SHARON PRIYA,**
Std.VIII,
St.Joseph's A.I.G.H.S.,
Trichy

**KEERTHANA SRINIVAS,**
Std.VI,
The Shri Ram School,
New Delhi

**R.GAUTAM,**
Std.VII, Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Kannur

**B.PURNIMA,**
Std.VI, Vedavalli Vidyalaya
S.S.School,
Walajapet

**S.SUDHARA,**
Std.III, Ramjas School

**M.TEJASWINI,**
Std.II, P.S.B.B.S.S.School,
Chennai

**M.SUBASH,**
Std.V, Vedavalli Vidyalaya
S.S.School,
Walajapet

**K.EZHIL OVIYAM,**
Saradha M.S.,
Gingee

**K.N.SWATHI,**
Std.IX, Zigma M.S.,
Chennai

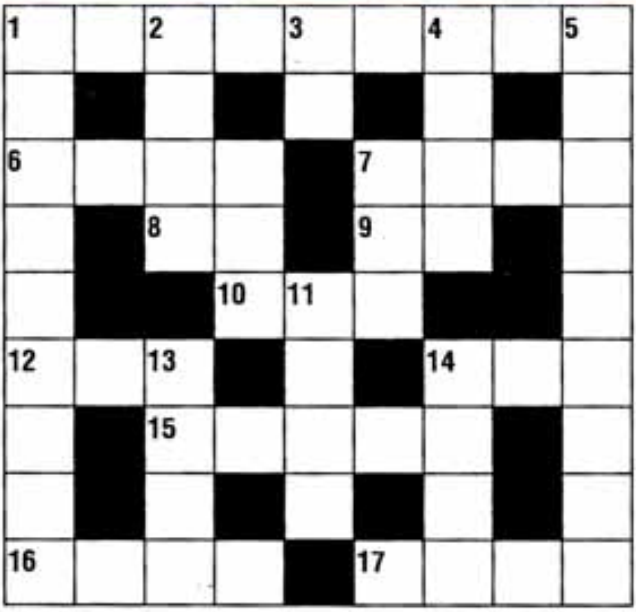
**ATHIPHAN ANBUMANI,**
Std.III, Kalaimagal Kalvi
Nilayam (Matriculation),
Erode

**S.BALASUBRAMANIAM,**
Std.V, Vani Vidyalaya,
Pallipalayam

**M.GOWRIPADMA,**
Std.VII, Rajalakshmi
Gingusamy M.H.S.S.,
Pethappampatti,
Udumalpet

**V.M.ANUSH CHANDRA SHEKAR,**
Std.V, Kamlavati H.S.S,
Sahupuram,
Thoothukudi

**K.MANJUNATH BHAT,**
Std.XI, Sri Sankara
Vidyalaya M.H.S.S.,
Chennai



**DOWN**

1. The Sun or Rajinikanth? (9)
2. The wind can also do this (4)
3. A short Rigorous Imprisonment (2)
4. Said at the close of a prayer (4)
5. A country much affected by tsunamis (9)
7. Perhaps before June (3)
11. You cannot imagine a South Indian meal without this (4)

**CLUES:**
**ACROSS**

1. An ashram in Gujarat where Gandhiji stayed (9)
6. Rich people should extend a helping hand to the ....(4)
7. To set right something that has broken (4)
8. You and I (2)
9. Cut the beverage from ant (2)
10. Moistureless (3)
12. Total figure (3)
14. Water in solid state (3)
15. Experience profit or loss (5)
16. If Little Johny wants to play, this should go away (4)
17. Continent inside Eurasia (4)

# Gullu's Crossword - 5

13. Opposite of maxi (4)
14. Sir I, inside eye (4)

**- G.S.S**

# Gullu's Crossword -3

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 E | V | E | 2 R | Y | ■ | 3 F | 4 A | T |
| V | ■ | ■ | O | ■ | ■ | 5 I | T | ■ |
| 6 E | A | G | L | E | ■ | 7 T | E | 8 N |
| R | ■ | ■ | L | ■ | 9 N | ■ | ■ | A |
| E | ■ | 10 B | E | ■ | 11 A | B | E | T |
| S | ■ | ■ | R | ■ | T | ■ | ■ | U |
| 12 T | 13 I | 14 C | ■ | 15 S | I | X | E | R |
| ■ | 16 N | O | ■ | ■ | O | ■ | ■ | A |
| 17 E | N | T | ■ | 18 A | N | D | A | L |

Congratulations!

Here are the winners of Gullu's Crossword - 3 (October 2007) and the solutions as well. The results of Gullu's Crossword - 4 will be published in the January 2008 issue.

1. **S.Gautami, Std.V, St.Xaviers Senior Secondary CO-ED School, Bhopal**
2. **V.C.Subbulakshmi, Std.V, Gautami Vidya Dhamam, Hyderabad - 72**
3. **S.Sneha, Std.VII, Avila Convent Mat.Hr.Sec.School, Coimbatore-11**
4. **J.G.Vandhana, Std.VII, Kendriya Vidyalaya HAL, Bengalooru - 17**
5. **Addanki Sai Kashyap, Std.VIII. St. Joseph's Public School, Hyderabad - 60**

## Gullu's Crossword - 5 ENTRY FORM

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

.....Pin .....

Signature : .....

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

**The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,**
**47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.**

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed grid on the reverse accepted on this form only • No xerox copies.

**Last Date : 20.12.2007**

# Save the Beach!

If someone mentions the word 'beach', you might first think of Marina beach, the second longest beach in the world! How nice it is to spend a day at the beach, playing with shells and splashing in the sea. About twenty years ago, (in the 1980's) Marina was the dirtiest beach you could ever imagine. But now, the people have turned over a new leaf, and it is spotlessly clean. However, Elliots beach a continuation of the Marina, is still very dirty. People often throw broken glass bottles here. They often spit and urinate over here. The beach has become a public dustbin for the street urchins and fisher-folk, who live near by in dirty, crowded slums. There is a monument dedicated to Mr.K.A.J.Schmidt. People who come to the beach, often write on the walls of this monument: "Spit, litter and urinate here!" Ugh! The beach is beginning to look like the dumpyard of Chennai! It stinks! As individuals, it is our responsibility to take good care of the natural surroundings. We must take stern measures to keep the beach clean. All this will ensure a hygienic, safe and happy environment!

**- Kavya Bharat,**
**Std. VI,**
**SISHYA, Chennai**

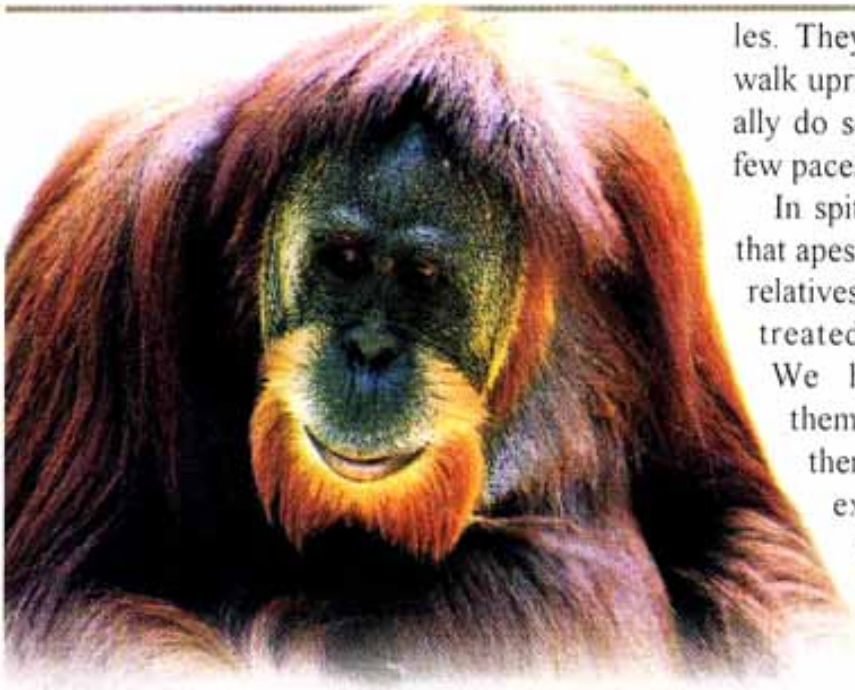
# APES

Apes are our nearest relatives in the animal kingdom. Like humans they are intelligent and generally live and travel in groups.

There are two main types of apes. Gibbons and siamangs are the lesser apes and gorillas, chimpanzees and orang-utans are the great apes. The great apes have bodies much like ours. Like us they have no visible tail and they have 32 teeth. Vision is their most important sense, and unlike most mammals, they can see colours much as we can.

There are many other similarities between apes and humans. Some of the blood proteins of chimpanzees are exactly the same as ours, and as with human families, female apes normally have one baby at a time.

Young apes develop slowly. Ape mothers, unlike many humans, do not have another baby until the last young one is several years old, by which time it is fairly independent. A baby chim-



panzee, for example, is not weaned until it is about 4 years old. Until then it is cared for by its mother, often riding on her back. Even after the birth of her next young one, earlier members of the family often stay with their mother. They learn many things from her, such as how to make nests and use a twig as a 'fishing rod' to catch termites. Like all intelligent animals, they continue to learn throughout their lives.

There are some obvious differences between apes and humans. Apes have far more hair covering their bodies than we do. Also their arms are much longer and stronger, while their legs tend to be shorter and weaker. Apes can climb very well and often swing about in the branches of trees, but adult great apes are too heavy for the higher, weaker branches.

Apes usually walk on all fours. This is known as knuckle walking, as they put their weight on their knuckles. They are able to walk upright, but usually do so only for a few paces.

In spite of the fact that apes are our close relatives, we have not treated them well. We have killed them, imprisoned them in zoos and experimented on them in laboratories. Worse, much of the forests in which they live have been destroyed. The orang-utan and the gorilla are both endangered species, and chimpanzees are much less common than they used to be.

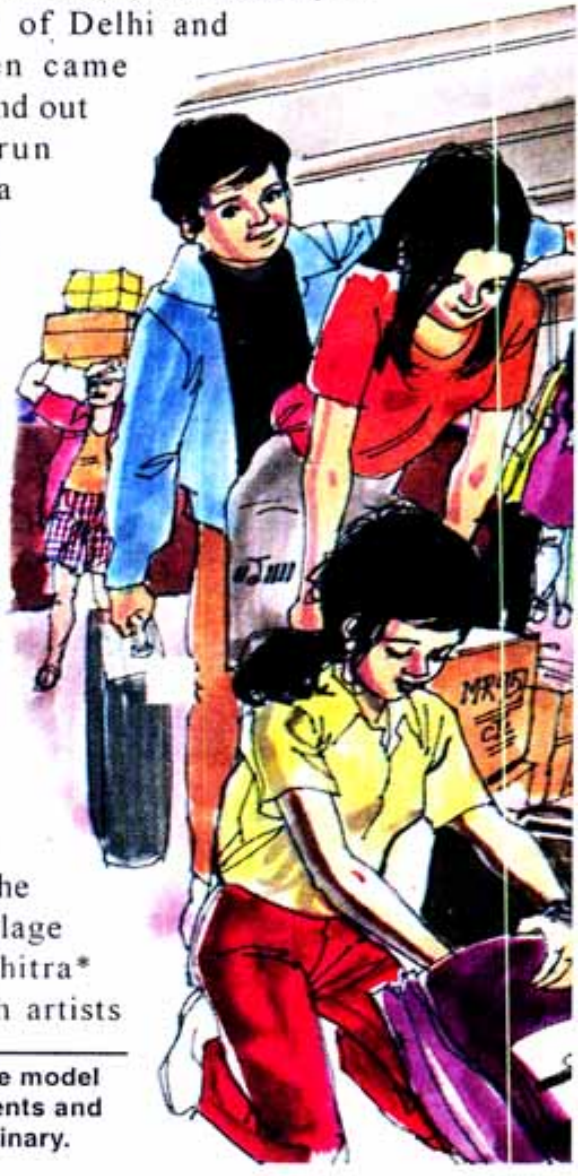
**- A.Anees Fathima,**
**Std. IX,**
**S.A.B.M.H.S.School,**
**Uthamapalayam**

New Serial Chapter Number - 1

## Laughter and Chatter!

The Chennai Central station was abuzz with hordes of commuters moving in and out as usual. Mr.Parthasarthy, the co-ordinator of the interschool cultural fest, was eagerly awaiting the arrival of seven children from across the country.The eighth, T.Suresh was standing next to him, ready to welcome his counterparts.

The first ones to arrive were the participants from the East— Anik Bose of Calcutta and Sonali Lakhar of Assam, to be followed by Jaspreet Kaur of Delhi and Rajeev Kaul of Jammu. Then came zooming in the Dadar Express and out stepped the vivacious Varun Wadekar of Mumbai and Raksha Seth of Baroda. And last but not the least entered the West Coast Express, bringing in the bubbly Emilda Vaz of Mangalore. All the kids had been in touch even before they met - thanks to the w.w.w.! They had already exchanged views, news and jokes. But they were excited all the same at seeing each other personally and the idea of spending one whole week together made them even more energized.

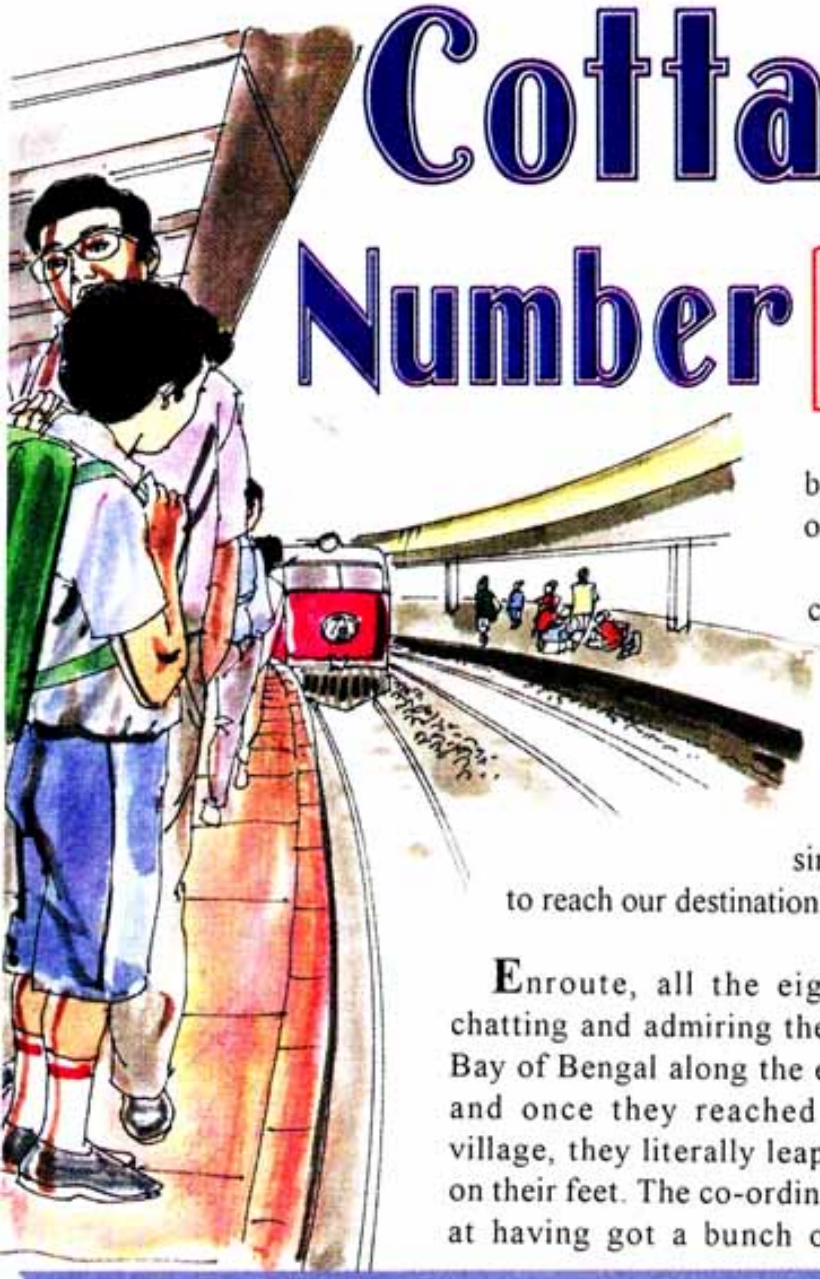


"Well, boys and girls," Mr.Parthasarthy began, once the initial welcomes and greetings were over. "You'll be spending the next one week at the Heritage Village on E.C.R., called Dakshin Chitra* where you'll be interacting with artists

* Though Dakshin Chitra is a real-life model heritage village off Chennai, the events and characters in this story are imaginary.

and artisans from various parts of the country. Apart from this, you'll be taken to different houses and tribal settlements where you will get an insight into the tradition followed by the varied communities. There's a cross cultural costume and cookery contest lined up to be followed by your performance on stage representing your particular state. There are many more surprises queued up which can't be revealed as of now, but let me tell you, overall it's going to

# Cottage Number 13



be the experience of your lives."

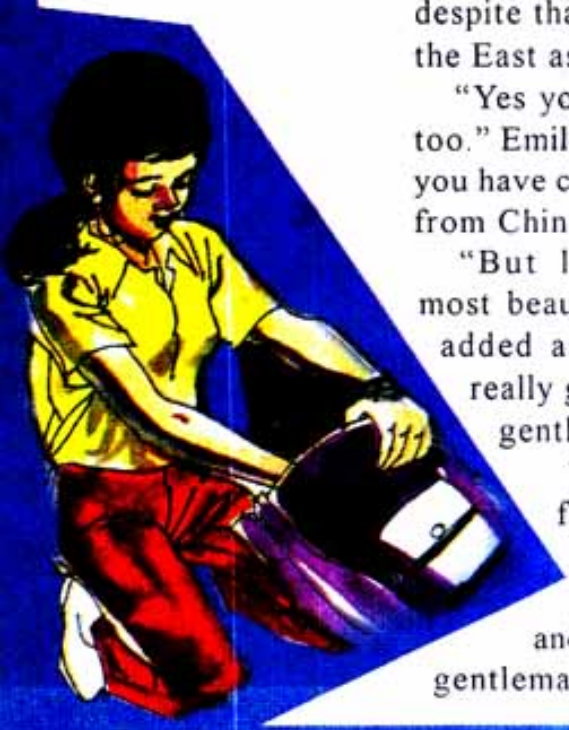
"Yippee!" the children yoodled in one voice. "We are looking forward to all the fun and thrill! We simply can't wait to reach our destination."

Enroute, all the eight were busy chatting and admiring the beauty of the Bay of Bengal along the east coast road and once they reached the Heritage village, they literally leaped out, spring on their feet. The co-ordinator was happy at having got a bunch of enthusiastic

boys and girls.

"First of all," he began, poring over a long paper of instructions. "Go to your cottages—girls in No.13 and boys at No.9, unpack, get refreshed and meet me at the lobby. I'll then tell you what's up for the day."

The children headed for their respective cottages, chattering all the way. Cottage No.9 came first and the boys took leave there, as the girls proceeded further down the lane.



They came to a U bend and Cottage No. 13 was situated at the far end of it. The boys were not visible from where they stood now.

"Wish we were in No.9," Raksha sighed. "You know No.13 is supposed to be unlucky."

"I don't believe in such superstitions!" Jaspreet voiced her opinion. "If we keep worrying about them, then there is no end to it."

"Very true, in fact my lucky no is 13", Emilda quipped in. "I was born on thirteenth and many a good thing has happened to me on thirteenth. What do you say Sonali?" and she turned to the quiet girl from Assam.

"I don't know much about numbers but the only time I feel bad is when people call me Chinese." She began rather shyly. "I keep correcting them and tell them that I am very much an Indian just like anybody else but despite that they still refer to all of us from the East as Chinese."

"Yes you are right, I have observed that too." Emilda nodded her head. "Just because you have chinky eyes it doesn't mean you are from China."

"But let me tell you, you are the most beautiful among us here today." She added as a compliment. "The boys are really going to fall for you!" she teased gently.

"But they don't look like the falling type yaar," Jaspreet dragged with a Punjabi accent. "Atleast not Rajeev. We travelled together and all along he was so courteous and gentlemanly."

"Even Anik seems to be a goody-goody chap." Sonali pointed."But he is smart enough to have answers at the tip of his fingers."

"Varun is the other extreme, probably the loudest of the four" - Raksha had her say. "Had enough of his chitter-pitter."

"And what do you think of Suresh?"she added as a query.

"He also looks like the bookish type." Emilda voiced loudly."But you never know. Maybe they will need time to open up."

"Anyway we are all going to be together for the next one week and as Partha Sir said it's going to be a huge family affair," she added with a flip of her eyelids.

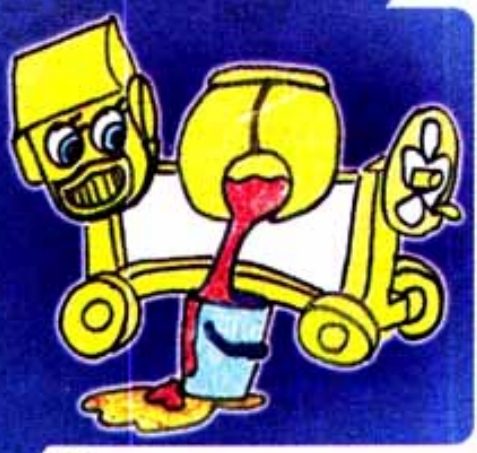
"It's gonna be fun yaar!" Jaspreet butted in with a leap in her voice."By the way you can all call me Jassy—that's my pet name."

They gathered at the lobby as instructed and Mr.Parthasarthy decided to take them around the place so that they got acquainted with it.

"Literally translated, 'Dakshin Chitra' would mean a picture of South India" - the co-ordinator began his explanation."You'll get to see different houses belonging to the various clans of the four southern states. Apart from these you have a potter's hut where you can try your hands at pottery, a weaver's hut where you can weave baskets; or you could have a shot at paddy pounding and grinding with a stone, try puppet making, glass blowing, kalamkari or block printing, tribal embroidery and much more. Apart from the regular activities you have the traditional festivals celebrated and cultural events going on continuously. Infact tourists from near and far, including overseas, throng the place all through the year."

"Now I want you all to split up and spread across." he added. "Go around and take notes of whatever catches your eye. It has to be individual effort and no asking for help. And once you are through with your observations come over to the study next to the main lobby where we shall have a group discussion."

They lingered for sometime, deciding who would go in which direction. It



## Easy v/s Difficult

Easy it is to talk without thinking
Difficult it is to make your tongue pause.
Easy it is to forgive others
Difficult it is to ask for forgiveness.
Easy it is to set rules
Difficult it is to follow them.
Easy it is to criticize others
Difficult it is to improve oneself.
Easy it is to pray every night
Difficult it is to find God in small things.
Easy it is to make mistakes
Difficult it is to learn from them.
Easy it is to receive
Difficult it is to give.
Easy it is to read this
Difficult it is to follow!

**- G. Parvathy, Std.X,**
**Nirmala H.S.S., Nazareth,**
**Aluva, Kerala**

was a vast space spread across a couple of acres and the boys and girls spread out to research the best. A booklet and pen in their hands they entered from one house to the other, noting down the details of the art and architecture, design and planning. At some places they bumped into tourists busy clicking photographs while at someothers they were left to themselves.

Jassy entered the huge Chettinad house with its open to sky centre square. There were some amazingly beautiful artefacts lying around. She got busy noting down the details. Suddenly, she happened to spot a shadow fall across the wall in front of her. At first she thought it was one of the tourists and ignored it. A minute later, the shadow re-appeared. Jassy turned back to see if there was someone standing near the door behind her. There was nobody. Bold enough the girl she was, she called in a loud voice, "Anybody there behind the door?"

There was no answer.

She walked a few steps further and repeated the question.

No answer again.

The shadow had suddenly vanished.

**(To be continued)**

# Attention, All GOKULAM Readers and Contributors!

Most of you have been sending us jokes, facts and snippets gathered from the internet or G.K. books. Do show us how original you can be

★ Write your thoughts and ideas on various issues.

★ Report funny happenings at school or home.

★ Do make sure that you put down your name, age, class, school name and residential address on each and every contribution that you send to Gokulam.

★ The best ones will be published and a participation certificate will be sent to the contributor.

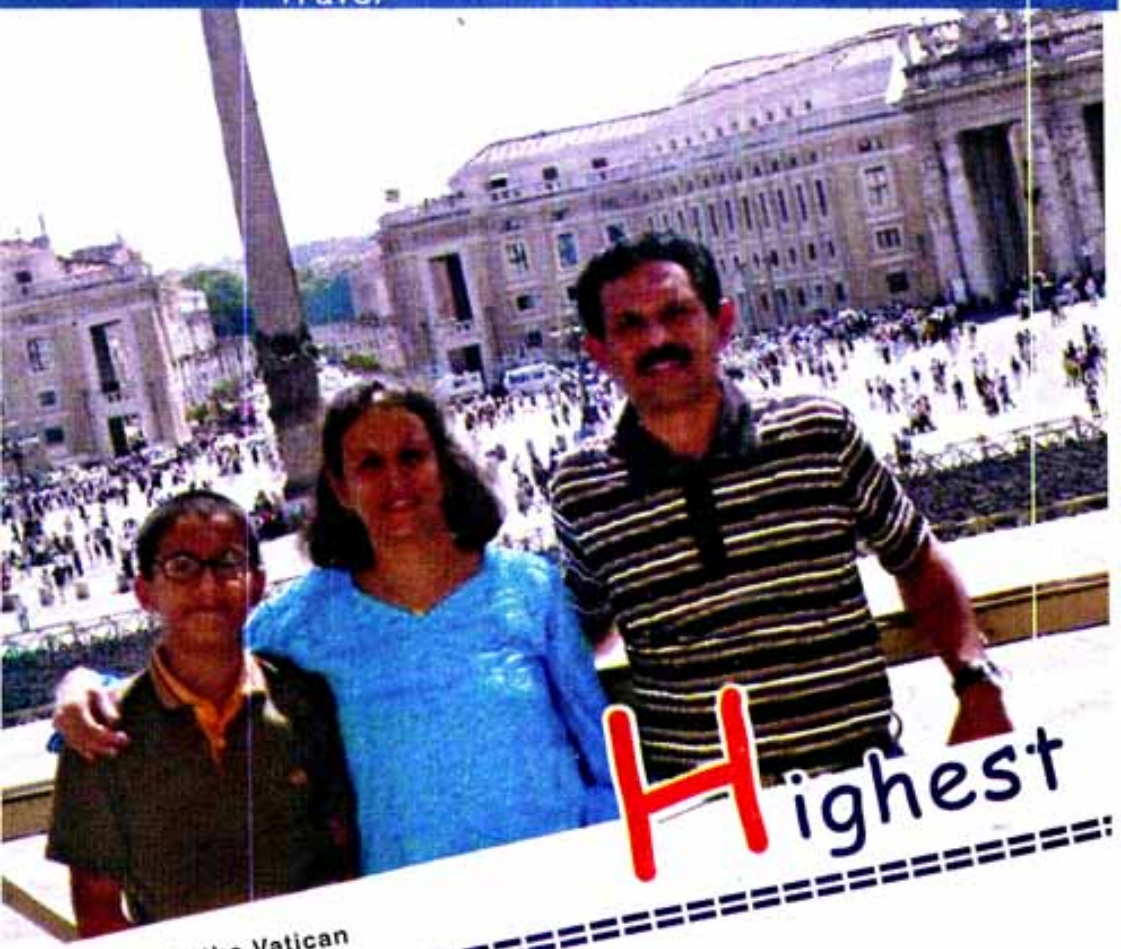
★ The child who collects the maximum number of participation certificates will be awarded a special prize at the end of the year (July '07 to June'08). So, please preserve your participation certificates.

★ All competition entries should reach us before the last date mentioned.

★ Entries to Birthday Bash column should reach us along with the approrpiate message and photographs **two months before the birthday.**

★ Do be original in your contributions and creations. If you have based your writing on a source, be sure to acknowledge it and name it and...

**NEVER EVER COPY!**



# Highest

• At the Vatican

During our summer vacation, we had been on a trip to Europe. Europe is a continent adjacent to Asia and is the fifth largest continent in the world.

We visited Europe's largest water falls - Rhein Falls. We went in a boat, close to the foot of the falls, which was a very thrilling experience. The boat driver skillfully manouvered and took us to the rock which was situated right at the centre of the falls. We climbed the steps and reached the (top) centre of the rock. After this hair-raising experience, we came back to the starting point and had hot vada, pav bhaji and samosa in an Indian restaurant (mobile caravan).

We then went to Europe's highest railway station - Jungfrauch. Our train passed through a tunnel in a mountain (from 8,000 feet to 11,500 feet altitude).

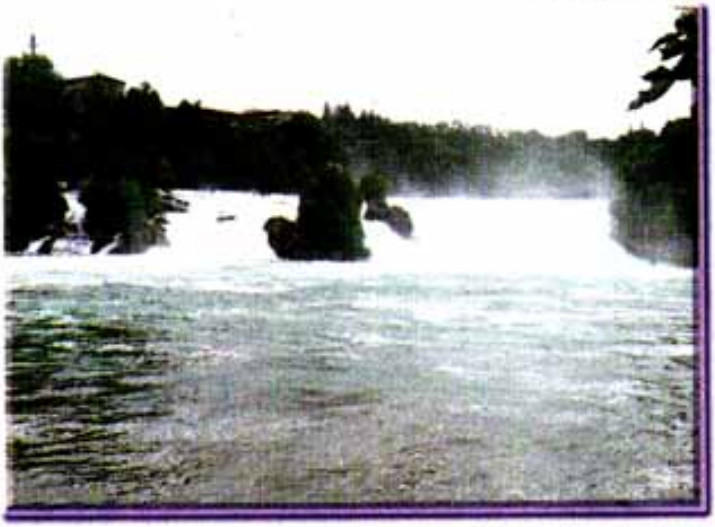
From the station, we went to the Alsetch glacier. The high-

# Railway Station

light of the trip was a walk on the glacier. There was snow all around and the whiteness was spectacular.

Finally, we visited St.Peter's Basilica in Vatican city, where the Pope delivers addresses to the gathering on special occasions. There are several statues of Popes and other religious heads here.

Although our trip to Europe was short, we returned home with sweet memories.



- Anirudh Rajseshan,
Std.X,
Indian High School,
Dubai

**Try something different this Christmas.**
**You may use home made or bought out chappathis for this recipe!**

# Chappathi

**Ingredients:**

Chappathis - 2

Oil - 1 teaspoon

Boiled vegetables like beans, carrot, peas, cauliflower, potato - 50 g each

Onion (Chopped) - 1

Corriander leaves - for decoration

Turmeric powder - 1 pinch

Jeera powder - 1 teaspoon

Chilli powder - 1 teaspoon

Salt - as required

Sugar - ¼ teaspoon

Grated cheese - as required

Lemon juice - 3 to 4 drops

Garlic- 1 piece

Ginger - 1 piece(small)

**Method:**

- Cut the Chappathis into small pieces.
- Heat a pan, add oil, onion, garlic and ginger and saute well.
- Add all the vegetables and saute for one minute.
- Add salt, turmeric powder, chilli powder and jeera powder.
- Add the chappathi pieces and mix well for half a minute.
- Switch off the stove and sprinkle sugar and lemon juice. Add the grated cheese and decorate with corriander leaves.
- Your tasty chappathi chat

# Chat!

is ready to be served with cucumber raitha.

**- S. Preethy, Std.VII,**
**Padma Seshadri**
**Bala Bhavan**
**S.S.School, Chennai**

# OATS PANCAKE

**Ingredients:**

Oats flakes - 2 cups
Fresh milk - 3 cups
Butter - 1/3 cup
Vanilla or Cinnamon extract - ½ teaspoon
Salt - 1 teaspoon

**Method :**

Mix all the ingredients and let it stand for about twenty minutes. Heat a saucepan or tava mildly and grease it with butter. Pour a ladle or two of the mixture onto it and leave for a while. Turn the pancake over and cook both sides till golden brown. Serve warm.

*(Source: Guide to Good Eating)*

**- Verina Berryl Rasquinha,**
**Std.IX,**
**St. Agnes English Girls High School,**
**Mangalore**

## Grandmaworm

**I study well after returning from school and I also revise the next morning. However when I go to school I forget everything! My parents say I don't have memory power. Can you please guide me?**

**- N.S.Soundharya, Coimbatore**

*Dear Soundharya,*

*While it is true that some people have more memory power than others, an average memory power is enough for your studies. Eat healthy nutritious food and allot time for regular exercises. A healthy body is necessary to help the mind to concentrate. Don't mug up. Understand the lesson you are reading. After reading a passage, close the book and talk to yourself on what you have read and understood. Then go to the next passage. Writing down what you have understood is even better, though time consuming.*

# Friends are Turning

**I am in fifth standard. Next year I have to choose between lower Hindi and higher Hindi. Which am I to choose?**

**- Bhavya Kannan, Chennai**

*Dear Bhavya,*

*I suppose that higher Hindi means a higher standard of Hindi; while lower Hindi means the opposite. Well, to choose between the two, you'll have to ask yourself the following two questions:*

*a) What is your aim in life? Will studying Hindi help you to achieve that aim?*

*b) Are you interested in developing your language skills?*

*If the answer is positive for both questions go in for higher Hindi. Otherwise opt for lower Hindi.*

**I had a lot of friends last year. But now, all my friends are turning away from me since they feel I am very sensitive. My favourite teacher has left for America and this too has disturbed me a lot. As a result of all this, my grade is going down. Please, please help!**

**- Kirthika**

*Dear Krithika,*

*Usually, I don't reply to children who haven't put down their addresses. But in your case I am making an exception since you may*

grandma

*have missed giving your address owing to your disturbed state of mind.*

*It is common for young people like you to feel miserable when someone you adored has shifted residence and gone far away from you. But you must understand that this teacher whom you venerate has left for America to better her own future. So you must feel happy for her and not miserable. Don't think that a void has been created. Someone else will take her place. Meanwhile, keep in touch with your previous idol through letters, e mail or airmail. Coming to the first part of your problem, if your erstwhile friends feel and say that you are very sensitive and shy away from you, then you have to do some soul-searching. Ask yourself if what they say is true and try to analyse the cause for*

# Away from Me!

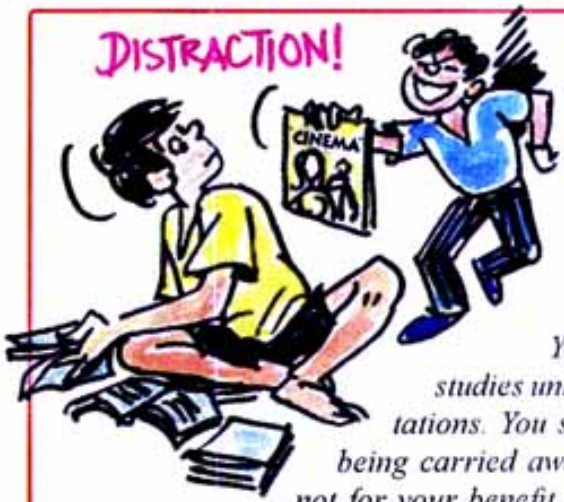
*it. Once you find the reason, you can find a way to overcome it. If the defect lies in you, don't hesitate to accept or rectify it. Always remember, a smile will carry you many miles; while a frown results in being bogged down!*

**Though I practise for more than an hour everyday, I hardly get a distinction in maths. My dad always scolds me for this and now I feel bored with the subject. Please help.**

**- B.Venkataram, Navi Mumbai**

*Dear Venkataram,*

*Talk to your dad nicely. Tell him that instead of scolding you, he must try to help you with maths. If he is too busy for this, he must find someone who can guide you properly. Mathematics requires understanding of the problem and the steps leading to solving the problem. Some children miss the logic behind the steps, while they are in a crowded classroom. But they understand quickly if tutored individually. So, find someone to help you. Don't feel shy to ask for help. Also, write the steps repeatedly for better concentration and retention.*




**There is a boy in my class who is good at studies. He is also my friend. But, of late, since I am catching up with him in studies he is doing things to distract me from studies. Please advise.**

**- S.Siddarth, Velachery**

*Dear Siddarth,*

*Your 'friend' cannot distract you from studies unless you yield to his pressure or temptations. You should develop a firm mind to resist being carried away by sweet words which are really not for your benefit. Your instinct will tell you what is right and what is wrong and all that you have to do is to follow the right path. Your 'friend' who is really your foe will soon realise that he cannot deceive you or harm you in any way. You can also tell him politely that his attempts to mislead you will not succeed and that a positive approach is always better. 'Live and let live' is the best policy for all of us.*

***When something goes wrong I get tense and blame God. When I am victorious I am overjoyed and cannot control myself. Please help me to be steady at all times.***

***- Keerthana Krishnamurthy, Pune***

*Dear Keerthana,*

*When we are victorious we think that it is our achievement and forget that God helped us to achieve. When something goes wrong we put the blame squarely on God and forget that we might have erred. This is human tendency. But it is not difficult to overcome this defect, if we understand that we are more responsible for our successes and failures and not God. God supports us like steps, but we have to exert ourselves to climb those steps to reach success. We may slip and fall but God expects us to learn from our mistakes and continue our efforts.*

**Love**

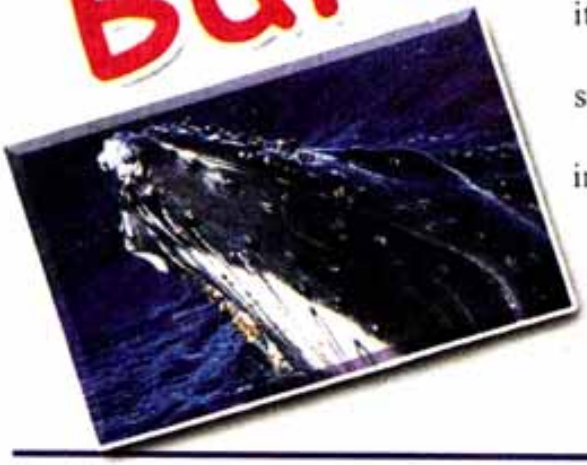
**Grandmaworm**

# Barnacles!

Barnacles each have one eye and three pairs of legs at birth. As they grow, they get two more eyes, three more pairs of legs, and two large feelers. Full-grown barnacles lose their eyes and attach themselves to rocks, ship bottoms, piers, whales or other underwater objects. Here they stay for the rest of their lives.

An adult barnacle has a hard, volcano shaped shell. The top is usually open but slams shut in case of danger. Six pairs of feathery legs dangle in the water outside the shell to capture any plankton that floats by.

- Barnacles 'foul' ships, making them heavier, slower to move through the water, and harder to operate.
- There are nearly 1,000 different kinds of barnacles.
- One humpback whale may carry half a ton of barnacles on its skin!
- Barnacle cement is the strongest adhesive known.
- Barnacles can grow to be 3 inches tall.



*(Source 'Speedy Facts')*

**- A. Anjana Gayathri,**
**Std.VI,**
**P.S.B.B.S.S.School,**
**Chennai**

# Nutty Boy!

He is a squirrel,
Nutty is his name.
For nuts to eat,
He's always on his feet.
He climbs trees,
To nibble at leaves,
He peeps inside nests,
But never takes eggs,
"Cheep! Cheep!" is
his sound,
Which is shrill and quite loud,
He has a bushy tail,
Which sticks out like a sail,
We enjoy being together,
And are best friends forever!

**- C.R.Vishnu,**
**Vana Vani Mat.Hr.Sec.School,**
**Chennai**

# Seasons

Seasons are three
and move on in glee
First comes summer, then after the
monsoon comes winter.
During summer, it seems like the
sun is on the earth,
and the earth on the sun!
You'll thirst for water,
and wish it were cooler,
During monsoons, you'll see the
bare earth turn green;
The cities flooded and quite a
scene
But it's a good thing that when it
rains
Fields may be laden with grains
As for winter, oh dear! It's very
cold,
Colder than the A.C which
makes you freeze
Then again comes the summer,
monsoon and winter.

**- T.Amrutesh Radhakrishnan,**
**Std. VII,**
**Antonio De Souza High School,**
**Mumbai**

# The Brightest of them All

Where the sky is blue.
Where the rose is red,
Where the violets are of a rich hue
Where the grass is strewn with dew.
And flowers blossom with gusto.
Where weeds never grow,
And the rainbow bridges feelings,
Were humans love and share,
And cats play with dogs!!
There, you will find me,
Yes, you'll find me there!
The stars shine brighter than diamonds,
And the jasmines win over pearls
And the stream bubbling, clear, cold
Will bring joy more than gold.
Then your sorrows will not matter;
You are sure to find me there...
Yes I am Happiness,
Bright and truly fair!

**- Chethana Venkataraghavan,**
**Std.VIII, PSBB, K.K.Nagar,**
**Chennai**

# My Little Brother

*My brother who loves to play*
*And makes things out of clay*
*Is a naughty and lazy boy,*
*But he's always eager for a toy*
*After one demand comes another*
*Though he promises not to ask for anything further!*
*My brother is a great singer*
*He sings tunes wherever he lingers*
*He pretends to be spiderman and batman,*
*Because he's their great fan.*
*Though he studies the least*
*He scores marks with great ease*
*My brother is a very lively person*
*Who's always ready for an outing or excursion*
*Whenever I get rebuked mercilessly*
*He laughs and claps ceaselessly*
*Though he always boasts*
*I love him the most!*

**- Manisha,**
**Std.VII,**
**St.Agnes School,**
**Kharagpur**

Indira Nooyi was born in Chennai, on October 28th 1955. She received a bachelor's degree from Madras Christian College and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (PGDM) from the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta and graduated from the Yale School of Management.

Nooyi started her career with the Boston Consulting group. Then she moved on to the Post Union Management at Motorola and Asea Brown Boveri. She is also a Successor Fellow at Yale corporation and serves on the Board of Directors of several organizations.

Indira Nooyi joined Pepsi Co in 1996 as its Senior Vice President. At Pepsi Co, Indira has played a vital role. She also took the lead in the acquisition of Tropicana in 1998. She took over as CEO in May 2007. Pepsi Co thus becomes the largest corporation to have a woman CEO.

Apart from Pepsi, Pepsi Co manufactures Diet Pepsi, and Tropicana drinks, Aquafina water, Lays and Ruffles potato chips, Tostitos and cheetos chips, Quaker Oats, and much more. Many were surprised on August 14th 2006, when it was announced that Indira Nooyi

Reinemund said, "I am absolutely confident that Pepsi Co's future is in very capable hands. And I truly believe Indira and her team will not only sustain achievements but will take Pepsi Co. to an even higher level of success."

**- Kousalya Narendran, Std.IX, Vasant Vihar High School and Junior College, Thane**

# INDIRA NOOYI

would take the place of Reinemund.

Pepsi Co. is the world's fourth largest food and beverage company. According to Forbes magazine 2006 poll, Mrs.Nooyi is the most powerful woman. She has been named, 'The most powerful business woman in 2006' by Fortune magazine.

# More Mythology.

✉ We like Gokulam very much. It is our favourite magazine. We came to know about it two months ago, when our friends started reading it. We too joined with them and started reading. It is an excellent magazine.

**- Suhas, Naheeda and Misba Taj, Mahesh and Lakshmi Devi, Hosur**

✉ I am a new reader of Gokulam. I like it very much.

**- K.S.Kirithika, Std.II, P.S.B.B, Chennai**

✉ Hello, Gokulam! Congratulations to you! I am one of your regular readers! You have inspired me a lot to write articles! You have given me a lot of pen friends all over! Harry Potter tit - bits are really interesting!

**- R.Archana, Std.X, T.V.S.Mat.Hr.Sec. School, Madurai**

✉ I came to know about Gokulam very recently. It is awesome. I love Pottering Around. Please make Gokulam, a weekly magazine. I can't wait for a month to read the next Gokulam. Even my brother loves the magazine.

**- P.Prabika, Coimbatore**

✉ I have been reading Gokulam from 1999. It is too good! I like all the stories. It would be more interesting if the stories were adventurous and if more information about Harry Potter was published.

**- Suja Ramamurthy, Std.IX, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Coimbatore**

✉ I eagerly wait for Gokulam every month. Please publish more mythological stories.

**- K.Guru Venkata Krishnan, Bhagwan Mahaveer Dayaniketan Jain School, Vellore**

✉ Gokulam is a really facinating magazine. It helps us to improve our English.

**- Anusha, Std.IX, Air Force School, Bengalooru**

✉ I like Gokulam very much. I am lucky to have such an excellent magazine.

**- R.Anantha Krishnan, Std.IV, IInd Shift, K.V.Pattom, Trivandrum**

# Please!

✉ We are very happy to introduce ourselves to 'Gokulam'. We, the VII standard students of Govt. U.P. School, Morazha have became the new subscribers of the magazine from August '07. Morazha is a beautiful village in Kannur District (Kerala).

It has contributed its mite to the freedom struggle movement. From the very first copy, we understood that, the magazine would help us to improve our English.

**- Sirajunnisa, Std.VII,**
**G.U.P.School, Morazha**

✉ Gokulam, is mind blowing. It is a treasure of artwork, creativity and much more! I eagerly wait for the book every month.

**- P.Joseph Pravin, Std.VIII,**
**St.Thomas.Mat.Hr.Sec. School,**
**Tuticorin**

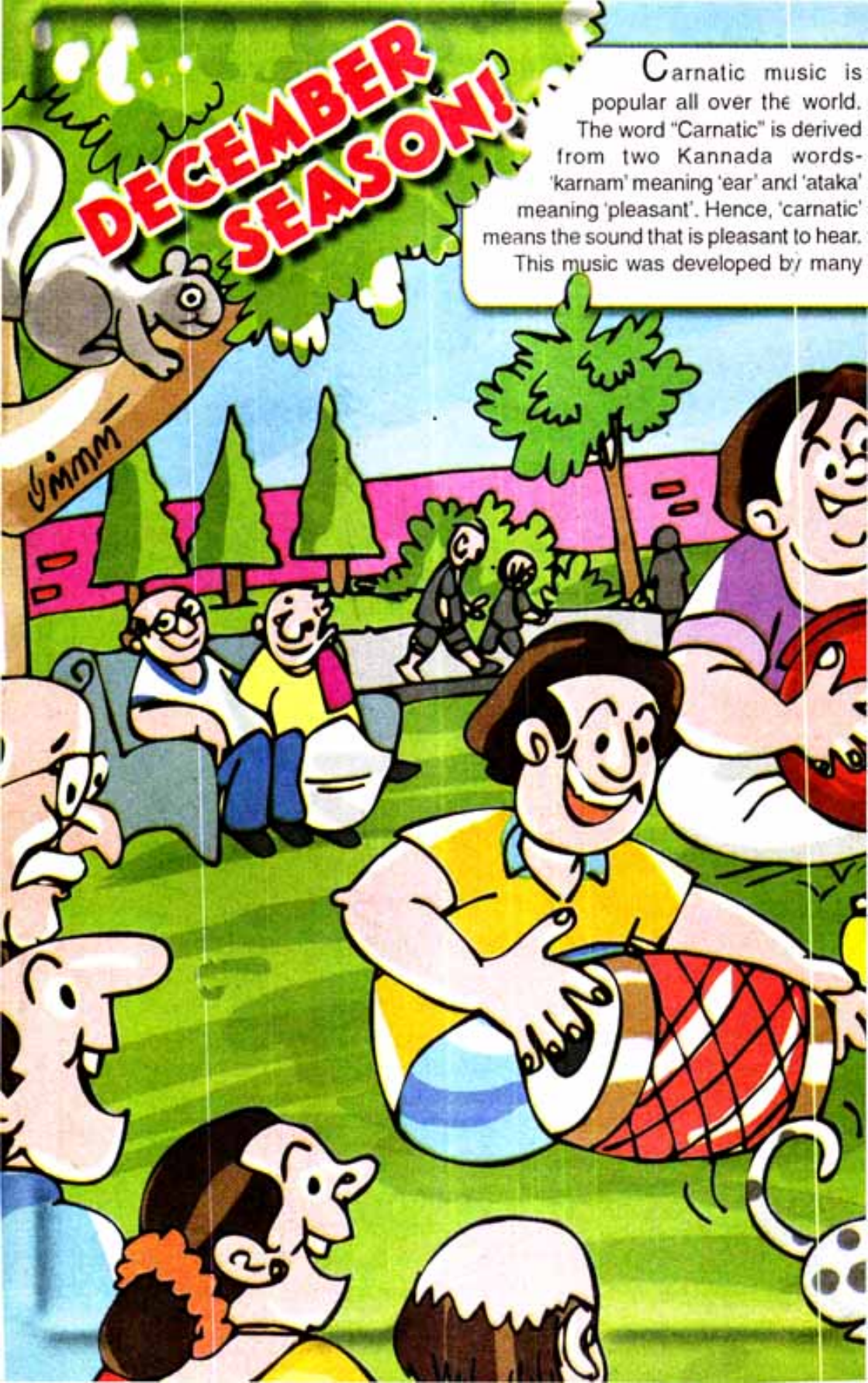
✉ I am a new reader of Gokulam. I came to know about it from one of my good friends. I feel it is the best because it gives us a lot of knowledge and develops our language skills. It is very useful for children. I shall send my contributions to Gokulam.

**- R.Durga Prasad Reddy, Std.IX,**
**Atomic Energy Central School,**
**Orissa**

✉ This is with reference to the article on 'Travel' (Oct issue) by Keerthana Krishnamurthy. Reading the article brought back sweet memories of my visit to Neelkhanteswar. That was way back in the year 1954, when I was a student of class VIII of the same school, and we were taken to Neelkhanteswar by our teachers. It was a memorable experience and even today, at the age of 68, the memories of my school days fill me with nostalgia. Thanks to Keerthana for reviving my childhood!

As a regular reader of your Gokulam I always feel young and happy at heart. It keeps me fit and fine. I don't grow old at all. (Only my age increases)!

**- Meena Padmanabhan,**
**Bhubaneswar**


DECEMBER SEASON!
Carnatic music is popular all over the world. The word "Carnatic" is derived from two Kannada words- 'karnam' meaning 'ear' and 'ataka' meaning 'pleasant'. Hence, 'carnatic' means the sound that is pleasant to hear. This music was developed by many

masters like Purandaradasa, Thyagaraja, Shyama Sastrigal and Muthuswami Dikshithar.

December is the month when Carnatic Music Festivals are held all over Chennai. Of late, some concerts are being held in parks and other open spaces too! Even young children perform concerts.

**- G.Pratheeksha**

*Illustration :* **Pillai**

# Hello Doctor

● **G.Ashwini Kumar, Mumbai**

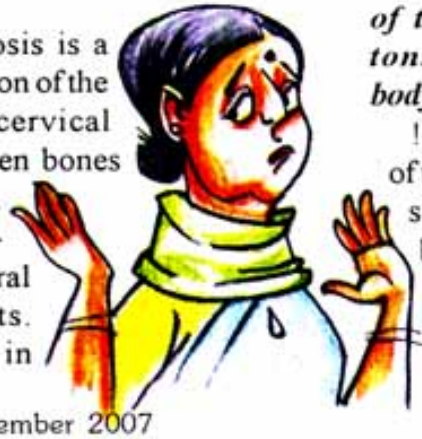
***? What is asthma? How can we prevent it?***

! Asthma is a disease in which the circular muscles of the smaller air tubes in the lungs, go into a state of sustained contraction. Hence the air tubes get narrowed resulting in a partial blocking of the flow of air. The blocking may also be due to accumulation of phlegm within the tubes. A high pitched sound during expiration (wheeze) is a common symptom of asthma. The most common cause of asthma is an allergy. Other causes are infections, emotional changes and physical exertion. We can follow these simple steps to prevent asthma: 1. Avoid conditions that cause asthma such as infections of the respiratory system, substances causing allergies like pollen, cotton dust, air pollution and smoking. 2. Infections of the respiratory tract should be treated as early as possible. 3. Regular breathing exercises may reduce the number of asthma attacks. 4.Take plenty of fluids so that the accumulated phlegm in the air tubes does not become thick and difficult to cough out.

● **A.Gangadharan, Bengalooru**

***? My mother is suffering from cervical spondylosis. What is it? How can we prevent it?***

Cervical spondylosis is a 'wear and tear' condition of the neck bones called cervical spines. There are seven bones in the cervical spine. They are joined together by inervertebral discs and ligaments. Spondylosis occurs in the discs. A disc in its healthy state is soft, elastic and strong. In spondylosis, disc loses water and becomes dry. Due to this, it is worn out, thinned and even breaks under stress. Now the edges of the spiral bones start rubbing against each other. Their friction causes severe pain on the neck and arms. Normally it is an age related phenomena. We can easily prevent this disease by doing some exercises to strengthen the muscles of neck, shoulder and upper back.



● **R.Suriya, Chennai - 9**

***? What is the function of tonsils? Is removing tonsils harmful to our body?***

! The tonsils are lumps of tissues located on either side of the throat, just behind the tongue. They produce special white blood cells called lymphocytes to fight infec-

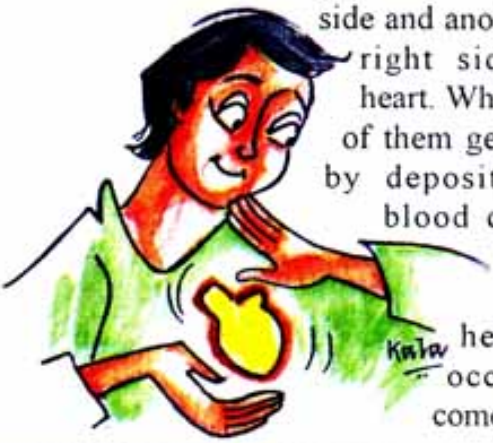
tion in the respiratory and digestive systems. When certain harmful bacteria reach the throat, they are trapped on the tonsils. The white blood cells surround the bacteria and destroy them. Thus the tonsils are the first defence mechanism of the body. Sometimes the bacteria are very active and may cause infection in the whole tonsil. Due to this, the tonsils are enlarged in size and turn red. This condition is called tonsilitis. If infection occurs frequently it is better to remove the diseased tonsils. Removing a diseased tonsil is not harmful to our body.

# Is It Alright to Remove Tonsils?

- **Ponravindran, Vizag**

***? What is coronary angiogram? How is it useful to heart attack patients?***

! The muscles of our heart get their blood through the arteries called 'coronary arteries'. There are two coronary arteries one on the left side and another on the right side of the heart. When any one of them gets blocked by deposition of a blood clot or fat (cholesterol), heart attack occurs. Here comes the usage of coronary angiogram. It is a test to identify how many coronary arteries are blocked, at what site and how severely. A specialized polythene rubber tube is passed through a blood vessel in the thigh till it reaches the coronary artery. A dye is injected into the artery. This procedure is taken as pictures and viewed on a computer screen. The pictures will show the site and degree of the block. This further helps the doctor to decide whether a surgery is necessary.



# The Story

A long time ago, earth was covered with water. There was no land at all. The underwater world was very beautiful. Tiny fish, tortoises and small creatures moved around in the deep blue waters.

A palace made of shells was underwater. The water princess lived in the palace with her parents. Everyone called her the blue fairy. She was very beautiful and friendly with all the water creatures. She had a kind and gentle nature which made her eager to help everyone around her. All the tiny plants and grasses were friendly with blue fairy. But the blue fairy's best friend was a huge tortoise. He would get her to sit on his back and take her around. Soon blue fairy knew all the water creatures and had visited the nooks and corners of the underwater world.

One day, Blue fairy asked the tortoise to take her to a new place because she had already seen all the places in the region. When the tortoise did not take her to any new place, she grew bored and very sad. But there was no place other than water so the tortoise made a plan and shared it with all the water creatures. They agreed to the plan and all the tortoises of that region held hands and made a huge circle. They swam side by side. Only their backs could be seen above the water as they formed an island. They

had pulled their heads and legs into their shells. Then, all the fish gathered mud from the water floor and put it on the tortoise's back. So it looked like a real island. A while later, some water shells and conches were brought out by the fish and some sand was also used to cover the mud. Later on, some strange plants came out of water and stood all around the sandy island. The sun shone on them and soon they acquired different colours. Some water creatures who could stay out for a while also came to settle on the island. Once the beautiful island was ready, the big tortoise brought the blue fairy out of water and onto the island. The blue fairy was happy to see such a wonderful place. She had never imagined that there was a world away from water. She saw the sand shining like gold and touched the shells on the sand. Nothing ever shone underwater because the sun's rays never reached deep inside there. So this new place excited blue fairy. After some time the blue fairy's clothes and her hair dried

# of Land

The Moon looked at them and asked, "Oh my God! She is very beautiful.! Who is she?..."

in the warm sunlight. She touched her dry hair in wonder. She examined all the bright colourful things she saw on the island. Soon she was tired and dozed off.

The tortoise observed the clouds running off in the sky. The moon looked at them and asked, "Oh my God! She is very beautiful! Who is she? And this is a new place I have never seen it before."

The tortoise told the moon everything. The moon said, "I keep moving in the sky every night. I had also got bored seeing the earth covered with water all the time. Atleast now i will have something new to see. I am very happy to see this wonderful place and the beautiful fairy. The moon took a handful of stars and spread them all over the island. Suddenly trees, flowers, plants, butterflies, birds appeared on the island . Soon a cool breeze began to blow. All the water creatures thanked the moon. Just then the blue fairy woke up. She was very happy to see the moon and the stars. The moon told her, "You can come to visit this place

anytime you want.
Now a new world will be created here. Many strange new creatures will live here. I will come here every full moon night."

This is how land was formed a long long time ago. On every full moon night, high waves leap up the sea. May be the blue fairy rides these waves to reach up to the sky and meet the moon!

**- R.Shweta,**
**Cal public School,**
**Hyderabad**

# 80,00,00,000 Cups a Day!

Tea has medicinal properties and is very good for healing. Tea was discovered way back in 2700 B.C. Tea, Chai, Chini all the words are Chinese since tea was discovered by the Chinese. Over 80,00,00,000 cups of tea are drunk every day throughout the world.

Taste for tea differs not only amongst individuals, but also amongst nations. We brew tea with milk and sugar while the Chinese and Japanese drink green tea. In green tea, leaves are exposed to steam to kill all enzymes, and then dried. There is no fermentation, so the original components of the leaves endure. Sometimes jasmine buds are added for flavour. In fact, drinking tea is a ritual in Japan.

Tea came to Europe in the sixteenth century, to be used as medicine. "Tea banishes sleep" said Bodhidarma way back in 1850 B.C. He was a great saint of Buddhism.

It is believed that tea gives us energy and helps us to overcome dizziness. Tea keeps us healthy.

Compared to other soft drinks or hot drinks, tea is far better. Aerated drinks and hot drinks like coffee have side effects. Tea helps to activate our mind.

So, take tea rather than other drinks. Try herbal teas too.

**- G.Kirthana,**
**Std.VII,**
**KVASC, Bengalooru**

CHOTA SINGH
©jingle bell creation
Chota Singh was a stupid man.
Look!
Eh?
A donkey.
What do you think?
Do you think I am a fool? How dare you call me a donkey?
Err... We didn't tease you.
You are lying.

Look behind you.
We actually meant that donkey.
I know that. That's why I said...
Don't try to make a fool of me.
I am wise enough to know that it was a donkey that you had mentioned.
But does that stupid donkey know that?

# Party...

**You will need :**

Oil papers, plain hair band, sequins, scissors, glue.

**Method :**

Take two contrast colours of oil papers like red and yellow. Cut them into the shape of a flower. Stick the sequins and the flowers alternately on to the hairband to make a beautiful patterned accessory for your Christmas party dress! You may choose colours to match with your dress.

**- M. Yasaswini, Std.VI,**
**P.S.B.B.S.School, Chennai**

## CHRISTMAS ANGEL

**You will need :**

Cardboard, cutter, scissors, coloured paper, needle, thread, glue, bottle, table tennis ball, thick paper, sketch pens.

**Method :**

- Cut out a circle 18 cm in diameter from the cardboard, to make a collar. Make the bottle stand in the middle of the circle and with a sketch pen draw a circle around it. Remove the bottle and keep it aside. Now cut out the small circle. Cut out small 'V's around this collar piece.
- Push the bottle from below into the circle. Leave about 7 cms of the bottom of the bottle below the cardboard collar.
- Now take a strip of coloured paper about 25 cm x 100 cm and fold it into pleats. Each fold should be 15 cm wide. Pass the threaded needle through the folds. Place this threaded strip of paper round the neck of the bottle and pull the thread

your Christmas tree.

Merry Christmas!

**- S.Sai Priya, Std.IX,**
**Mahatma Gandhi Centenary**
**Vidyalaya, Trichy**

tight; then tie a knot so as to hold the coloured paper dress securely.

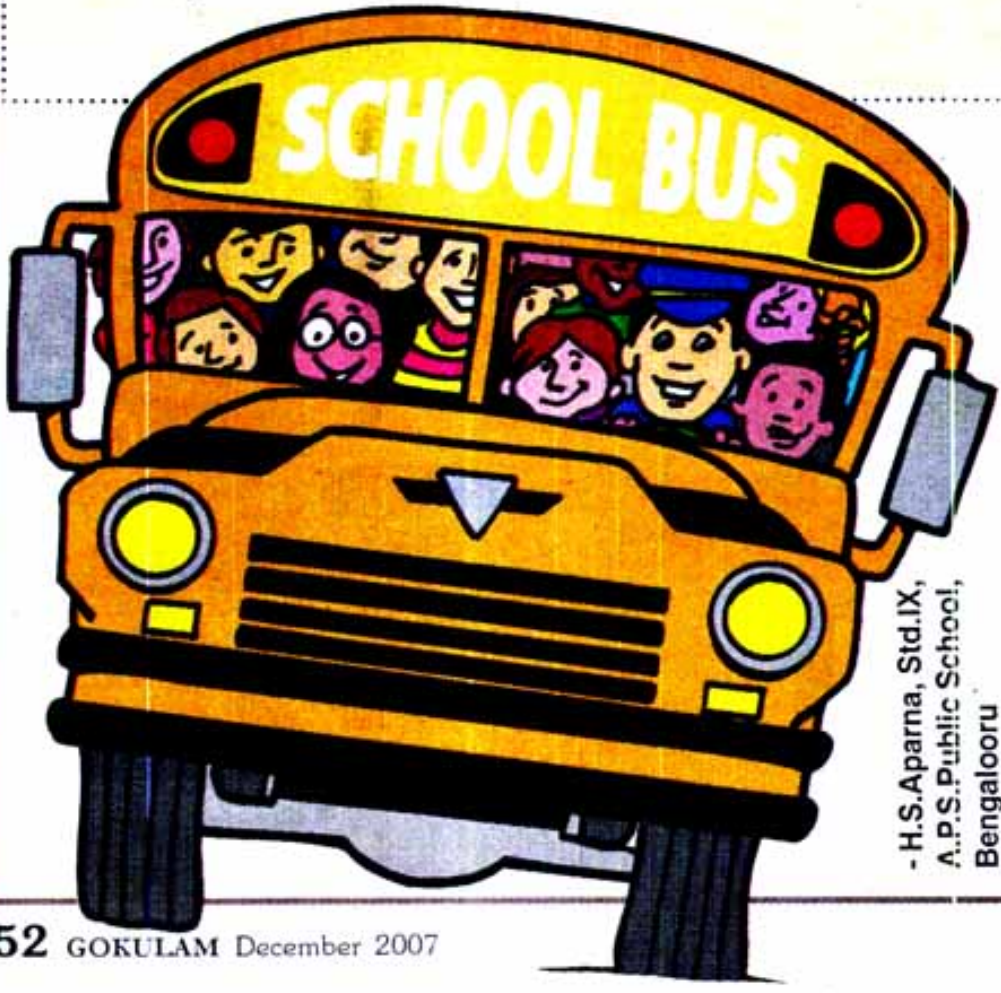
- Cut two hands from a different coloured paper and stick them onto the folds in the correct positions. Place the table tennis ball on top and draw two dots for the eyes and a wavy smile.
- Your hand - made Christmas Angel is ready. Hang it on

# ...Hairband!

# BLOSSOMS

'Blossoms' is an inter school festival organized by our school every year. It is usually held in the month of August. Students from all over Karnataka participate in this fest.

There are a number of competitions for both juniors and seniors. Some of the competitions for seniors are web page designing, folk dance, poetry, recitation, creative working, dumbcharades quiz, radio jockey, street play. The competitions for juniors included pick and speak, maths puzzle solving, western dance, classical dance, power point presentation etc. Many competitions are added to the list every year. Our school in the true spirit of hospitality does not compete for prizes, though we participate in every event. Blossoms gives a platform for students to develop and show their hidden talents. This year too blossoms was a grand success.




-H.S.Aparna, Std.IX,
A.P.S.Public School,
Bengalooru

# Rowling Talks of Potter`s Future !

In a 90 minute web chat JK.Rowling fielded some of the approximately 120,000 questions submitted by fans. It was her first public comment since 'Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows' was released.

Rowling said she was elated to share with fans the secrets she had harboured since she conjured up the idea of the boy wizard.

She said that the world was a sunnier and happier place after the death of Voldemort. Harry who always desired to become a Duror was named head of the Amor department under the new wizarding government headed by Kingsley Shacklebolt. Ginny Weasley stuck with her athletic career, playing for the Holy head Harpies, the all-female Quidditch team. Eventually, Ginny left the team to raise their three children - while writing as the senior Quidditch correspondent for the wizarding newspaper, the Daily Prophet.

Ron Weasley, joined his brother George, as a partner at their successful joke shop, Weasley's Wizard Dheezes. Hermione, furthered the rights of subjugated creatures such as house elves in the department for the Regulation and Control of Magical Creatures, before joining the magical law enforcement squad.

Luna Lovegood becomes a famous wizarding naturalist who eventually marries the grandson of Newt Scamander, author of 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.'

As the chat wrapped up Rowling thanked readers for their loyalty to the series. Rowling also said that the 'Hallows' was in part inspired by 'The Pardones's Tale' - one of Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales' about greed and death.

*(Source: Newspaper - Deccan Herald)*

**- Liya Susan Thomas, Std IX, Little Rock Indian School,Brahmavar**

# Christmas

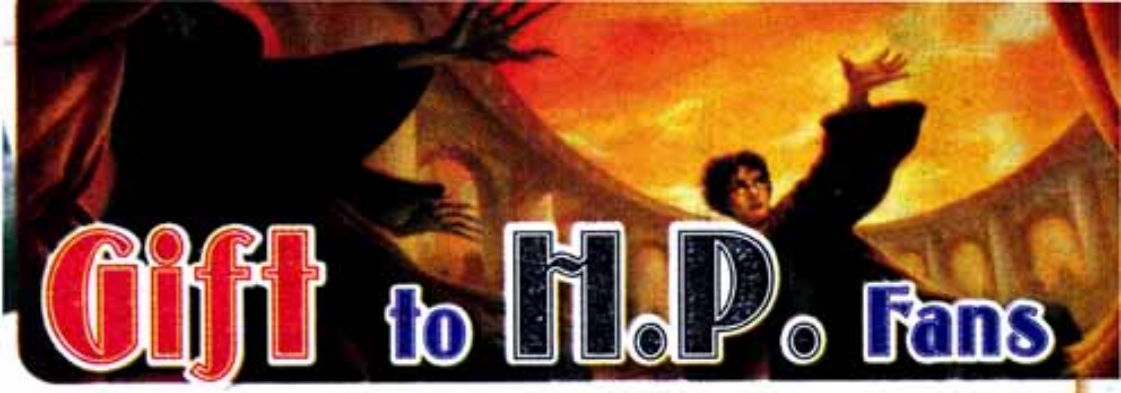
Here is great news for HP fans. J.K.Rowling has announced on her website, that she has written a new book. However there is only one copy of it to be made available to the public, and it will be sold to the highest bidder, for charity.

This new book is based on a tale (The Tales of Beedle the Bard) that is mentioned in 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows'. The book which is to be auctioned is one of seven copies handwritten by J.K.R. The other six will be given to people of her own personal choice. A special 48 page catalogue previewing this will soon be available for sale to the public, probably in December, and includes a message from Jo about the creation of the book.

The book to be auctioned is

# Test Your

1. Who is the ghost floating about in the girls' bathroom.
2. Harry's Patronus is a _____
3. What is the name of Dumbledore's Phoenix?
4. Hermione's Patronus is an _____
5. What is the name of Lupin's son?
6. To make you harmles while you are a werewolf on a full moon night, which potion is used?
7. Dumbledore has a _____ spectacles.
8. Whom does Lupins marry (in the last book)?
9. In the second book, Harry accidently reached _____ Alley instead of _____ Alley.
10. In his will, what did Dumbledore leave for -
(a) Harry (b) Hermione (c) Ron
11. Who is the conductor of the knight bus? (full name)
12. Name the Hogwart's map which is with Harry.
13. Where did Sirius live? Name that place.
14. What is on Level 2 of Ministry of Magic?
15. When (Date, Month, Year) did Harry's parents die?
16. Which book did Rita Skeeter




leather bound and embellished with silver and different semi-precious stones, and all profit will be sent to 'Children's Voice', the charitable organisation that Jo founded several years ago. It aims to stamp out cruelty, neglect and abuse of young people, especially in Eastern Europe. JKR made a visit to the area several years ago, and has remained dedicated to helping these children.

With the new book, this Christmas is going to be a great time for H.P. fans!

*(Source: Internet)*

**- J.Vishnu, Std.IX,**
**Shiksha Kendra MHSS, Pallikonda, Vellore**

# Potter Knowledge

write in 'Deathly Hallows' (7th book)?

17. What is the name of Ron's aunt, who fancies Rita Skeeter?

18. What is Luna Lovegood's father's name?

19. Name the three Peverell brothers.

20. What spell did Hermione use to remove the crack in Harry's spectacles? (2nd book)

**Now, Those who scored -**

1) 1 - 8 points - you just read Harry Potter for fun and miss many facts while reading it.

2) 9-14 points - You are interested in Harry Potter but you're in a hurry to finish the book.

3) 15-20 points - You have got Potter Mania! You're just crazy about it. Forever live your Potter Craze! Best of Luck!

**- Shibin Babu, Std. VIII, New Delhi**

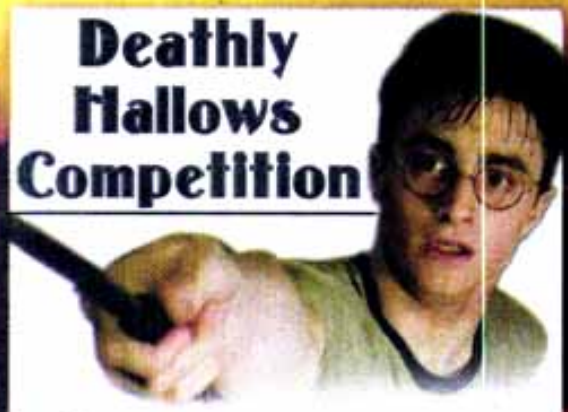
1. Floating Myrtle, 2. Stag, 3. Phoex, 4. Otter, 5. Teddy, 6. Wolfsane Potion, 7. Half - Moon, 8. Nymphadora Tonks, 9. 1) Knockturn, 2) Diagon, 10. a) The snitch, b) Tales of the Beedle Bard, c) His own deluminator, 11. Stanley Sunphike, 12. Maudcter's Map, 13. Grimmauld Place, 14. Department of Magical Law Enforcement, 15. 31, October, 1981, 16. The Life and Lies of Dumbledore., 17. Muriel, 18. Xenophilus Lovegood, 19. Antioch, Cadmus, Ignotus, 20. Reparo Spell

## ODE TO POTTER!

An ordinary boy he seemed to be;
But an extraordinary wizard he
was, you see.
Blackened by Dudley and his gang,
He fought the bassilisks fang.
Brave, noble and courageous he
may be
But the thing that raises him above
all is his loyalty.
His favourite spot is the quidditch
pitch
Best of all when he captures the
snitch
Loyal to him are Ron and Hermione
He trusts them with his secrets
many.
Dumbledore takes him through the
pensive
He organises DA classes on
Christmas eve!
Fenix helps him retrieve
memories many,
But luck deters him during
Ocelumency
He performs well in DADA classes
And fights back when Voldemort
clashes.
There may be many who are
cleverer and nobler
But then our favourite is
of course Harry Potter!

**- R.Afreen Nahar,**
**Std.X,**
**The Oxford Senior**
**S.School,**
**Bengalooru**

## Deathly Hallows Competition



I feel the best chapter in the seventh book of Harry Potter is Chapter Thirty one. "The Battle of Hogwarts." In this chapter, we see that the Hogwarts inhabitants are in action. The students, teaching staff and the Order of the Phoenix, fighting to defend the mighty castle and to give Harry more time to find the last Holcrux. It was just amazing! Harry is so engrossed in the preparations of the battle that he forgets about the Holcrux! I was proud of the Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Gryffinetor students who stood up against Pansy Parkinson. The battle plan was awesome. I really admire professor Sprout's nerve, Mandrabu v/s Death Eaters! Cool! How Harry finds the whereabouts of the diadem is really great.

But I think that the Grey Lady wasn't pleased with her role in the downfall of Voldemort. The saddest part of the chapter was the death of Fred Weasley. It came as a shock to me. I couldn't believe what I was reading. But I still think this chapter is the best.

**- Waliyya Baig, Std.VIII,**
**Sri Bhuvanendra Residential**
**School, Karkala**

# Not-so-Smart Machines!

If a child can learn to speak a language, can computers be far behind? The answer will surprise us. A child is a winner all the way!

Teaching a computer to speak, robots to walk or hold things like humans do, and making machines to mimic humans fall under a field of computer science called 'Artificial Intelligence.' For many years scientists have been trying to program machines to behave like humans. They have not always succeeded in creating these smart machines. On one stunning occasion, they did! In 1997, Gary Kasparov, the reigning World Chess Champion lost a match to IBM Deep Blue, a super computer! Today, Deep Blue isn't the only unbeatable machine or program *[Box 1]*.

It is the dream of every researcher to create 'intelligent machines' capable of mimicking human thought and understanding speech.

Yet, these machines are not intelligent when compared to humans. People have varying kinds and degrees of intelligence [Box 2].

If we ask, 'is the computer intelligent or not?' The answer is, "No." Intelligence involves complex mechanisms that happen at high speed. These are processed by human brain. At the best, scientists have discovered how to make computers carry out some of these mechanisms but not others.

Ask Partha Niyogi, a computer science professor who is trying to build computer systems that can learn from humans. The first step is to teach computers how to translate sounds into words. Simple words like 'dark' are complicated for the computer.

"There's a period of silence where there's no sound coming out, and then there's a sudden, sharp, noisy burst. That burst can be as short as 10 milliseconds," Niyogi explains. And computers should be able to detect these silences in order to understand speech.

This makes it difficult for scientists to 'teach' computers to talk or perform mechanisms. Other scientists aren't ready to give up the idea. They are trying to design a 'Child Machine,' that will improve by reading and learning from experience. Even these scientists understand that the biggest problem with their idea is the limitations of the computer language.

Artificial Intelligence programs haven't reached the level of being able to learn like a child. A child learns from physical experience while a computer cannot do it. A handful of scientists think that human-level intelligence can be achieved by writing large numbers of programs. Majority of researchers on artificial intelligence believe that new fundamental ideas

**Box 1**

*Feel like a challenge? Challenge Chinook to a game of checkers. Canadian Scientist Dr. Jonathan Schaeffer has been working on the checkers puzzle for 18 years!*

*Play Chinook on-line at: http://www.cs.ualberta.ca/~chinook/*

*CAUTION: Chinook may be played to a draw but will never be defeated!*

are required. If you love challenges, then this field is wide open for you.

For now, a child can beat a computer 'hands down!'

**Box 2**

*Types of Intelligence in Humans:*

***Linguistic:*** *Ability to understand words, learn languages quickly.*

***Musical:*** *The capacity to think in music, to be able to hear patterns, recognize them, and perhaps manipulate them.*

***Spatial:*** *Sensitivity to shape, line, color, space, and form, and ability to manipulate and rotate shapes mentally.*

***Bodily:*** *Highly developed coordination, balance, dexterity, strength, speed, and flexibility.*

***Interpersonal:*** *A person with ability to perceive and make distinctions in the moods, characteristics, intentions, temperaments, motivations, and feelings of other people.*

***Intrapersonal:*** *Highly developed self-knowledge, which is to say a person with accurate knowledge of one's dreams, goals, strengths, limitations, moods, anxieties, desires, and motivations.*

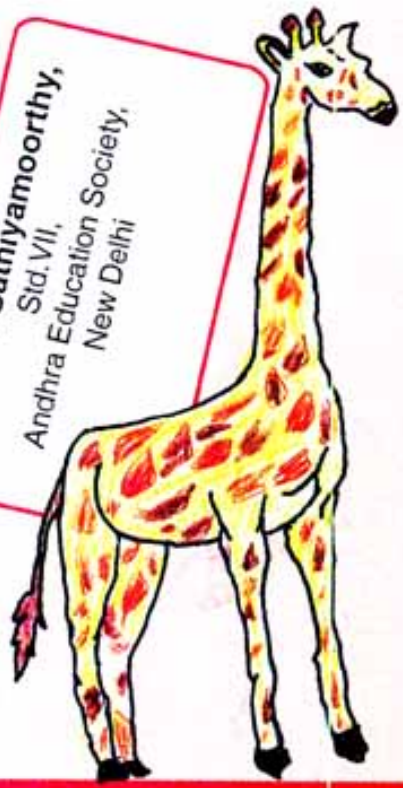
***Logico-mathematical:*** *Ability to understand logical patterns, abstract analysis and functions.*

**G.Raghull Vasan,**
Std.X,
D.A.V. Boys S.S.School,
Chennai

**Sreena Gopinathan Nair,**
Std.VIII,
S.I.C.E.S High School,
Ambarnath(E), Thane

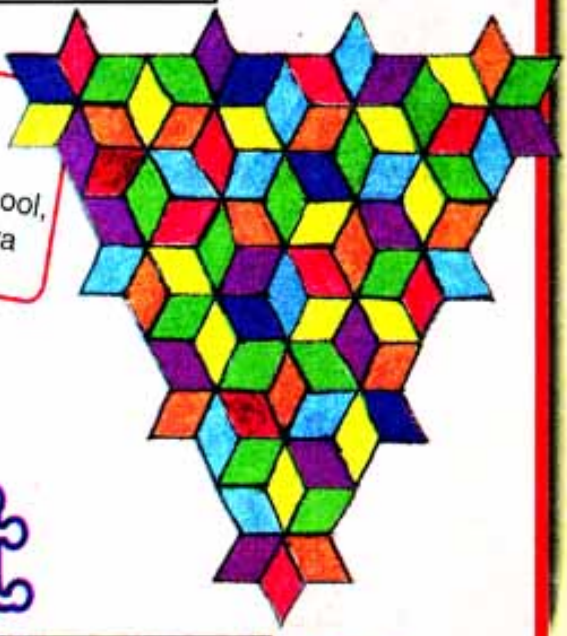
**R. Janani,**
Std.III,
The Hindu Colony
Chellammal Vidyalaya, Chennai

**P.Arvind Sathiyamoorthy,**
Std.VII,
Andhra Education Society,
New Delhi

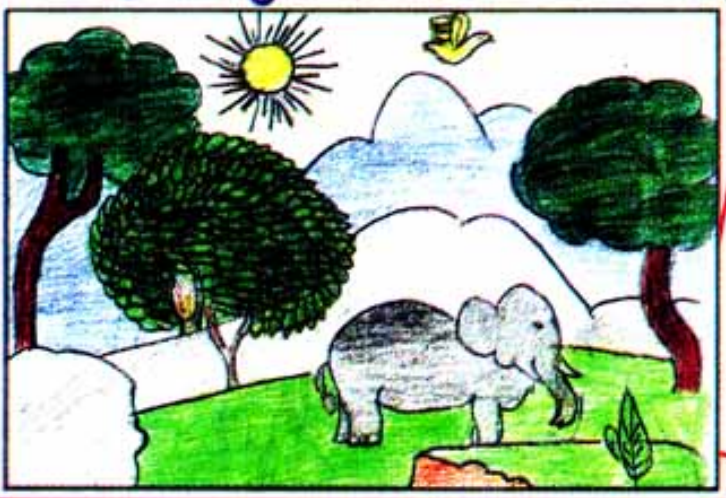


**S. Varalakshmi,**
Std.VIII,
Saradha Matric School,
Gingee

**Vipin Nair,**
Std.IX,
Model English High School,
Kalyan(E), Maharashtra



# Colour Burst



**S. Yadhugiri Rajan,**
Std.II,
P.S.Senior Secondary School,
Chennai

When I was in standard VIII, I participated in a music competition. The judge called out my name, I went up to the stage. I felt nervous on seeing the crowd, but I started singing and to my horror I forgot some verses in between. I finished the song somehow but felt very dejected. When I was about to leave the hall, they announced the results and to my greatest surprise, I was awarded the third prize and a cash award of Rs.75/-. The judge told me that my voice was very good. I was on cloud nine that day. Even though it happened years ago I won't ever forget it.

**- V.Surya, Std. XII,**
**G.R.T. Mahalakshmi Vidyalaya**
**M.Hr.Sec.School,**
**Chennai**

# On Cloud

## Wild Adventure!

We had been to Vedaranyam for a wedding. We were to get back only by the night train. So, after the wedding we went sight seeing. We went to the beach, an ancient temple, the lighthouse and 'Ramar Padham'. It is said that Rama had stood at that spot to identify the route to Lanka, to rescue Sita.

At the entrance, there was a board: "Don't feed the monkeys." We climbed a few hundred steps to reach the top. On the right side was a tower and straight ahead was the Ramar Padham. Nobody else was there. My uncle went to the tower and I followed him. Few of my cousins had already gone up.

What a breath-taking view! It was awesome. Few minutes late, Four women came and sat near the Ramar Padham. Two monkeys suddenly appeared. One of the women gave a piece of bun to them. My uncle called out to them and asked them not to feed them. But they didn't listen. By this time, all my relatives had come up. The monkeys ate the bun and asked for more. When the women shooed them away, they were angered and snatched the plastic bag, with the bun, from the lady's hands. The frightened women came rushing to the tower. The monkey took the bag into the forest which was behind the Padam. When asked about the bag, the ladies answered that they had a silk saree in it.

Suddenly the monkey came back followed by a few hundred others. Now, we were all terrified. The trees in the forests were shaking and we knew that more were coming. Two

of them were at entrance to the tower. So we could not get out. My sister and one of my cousins started crying. For 45 minutes we were surrounded by monkeys. Then one of my uncles ran up to the driver and asked him to fetch help. By then the two monkeys at the entrance moved away. The man who came with our driver, asked us to go in groups. We obeyed and the monkeys did not attack us.

I ran to the car and tried to open the door. Someone called out that there was monkey beside me. I got the shock of my life. I opened the door and got in and raised the window. When everyone had got inside, the driver started the car. A monkey followed us for some distance. When the speed increased, it stopped following. This has been the wildest adventure I have had.

**- B.Sakthi Sangeetha Devi,**
**Std.X, Sri Sankara Vidyalaya,**
**Chennai**

## How Tuttu's life was saved

I have a lovely little squirrel as my pet. Once when it was sleeping on the bed with us (my brother and me), I accidentally rolled over on it. When my brother woke up my mother to get him some water, she also checked whether the squirrel was in its basket. As she didn't find it there, she woke me up and asked me where it was. After looking for it, we found it under the blanket struggling for life. Immediately my brother and mother gave it some water and blew air into its mouth . Then slowly it started breathing. It is fine now. I thank God, my brother and especially my mother for acting promptly to save my pet Tuttu's life.

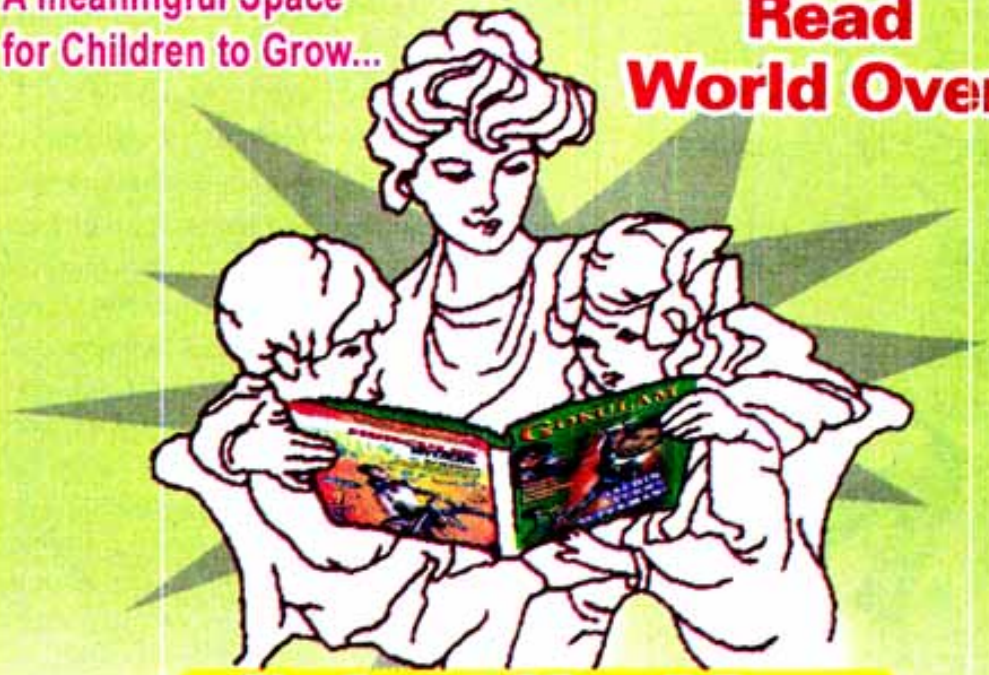
**- S.Suchitra, Std.IX,**
**Carmel Convent High School,**
**Bengalooru**

# GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

A meaningful Space for Children to Grow...

Read World Over!



## Subscribe Now

Name : .....

Address : .....

: .....

: ..... Pin : .....

Period : Inland ☐ 1 year Rs.120/- ☐ 2 years Rs.220/- ☐ 3 years Rs.320/-

Overseas ☐ $ 26 ☐ $ 50 ☐ $ 75

Amount enclosed : Rs. ☐ Only Demand Drafts and Money Orders accepted

You can also register with your newspaper agent for a month after month door delivery.

The Circulation Manager
Gokulam
'Kalki Buildings',
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, CHENNAI - 600 032.
E-mail : subscription@kalkiweekly.com

## Birthdays Gone By....

- **Nidhi** and **Nipun** celebrated their tenth birthday on 1st November.

  Wishes from **Amuiya, Mummy, Papa, Gourav, Atta, Mama and Granny.**

- **Siddhaarth Sarvagyam**'s birthday fell on 10th November. **Patti, Amma and Appa** greet him.

- **M. Akash** celebrated his birthday on 11th November. Greetings and God bless you! **- Sister M.Akshayaa.**

- **Shiji Babu**'s fifteenth birthday was on 16th November.

  Happy birthday to our Shiji. From: **Pappa, Mummy, and Shibin Monu.**

- **Rushab R.Bhandari** turned fifteen on 18th November. Greetings from one and all.

• Nipun

• Nidhi

• A. Sesha Sai Kashyap

• Krishna

## December Greetings

**A. Sesha Sai Kashyap** enters teenage on 14th December!

Happy birthday and all the luck in the world! **Dad, Mum, Bhagyashree, Grandma and Grandpa.**

**M.Meera** celebrates her fifteenth birthday on the 16th of December!

Wish you a happy birthday and a long and prosperous life. May God bless you. **- P.Aswathi**

- **Krishna** celebrates her 12th birthday on December 18th.

  - Best Friends **Sangeeta and Priyanka**

• Shiji Babu

• M. Akash

• Siddhaarth Sarvagyam

**BIRTHDAY BASH!**

School is like a temple. Teachers are our Gods. It is correct to punish children for disobeying and breaking rules.

**- R.Yazhini, Std.XI, Periyar Maniammai Girls' H.S. School, Trichy**

Teachers and students are like friends. A teacher should never punish students for breaking rules.

**- S.Arjun, Std.VIII, J.V.S.S.S, Chennai**

Definitely not. That too. This year being observed as the year of ' Stop Violence Against Youth' by the UN.

**- G.Swetha, Std.IX, Mahatma M.M.H.S.S, Madurai**

# Don't Punish

Punishing is a very important part of teaching. Some students do their work only when teachers are strict.

**- Shubham Tyagi, Std.VII, Vivekananda Kendra Vidhyalaya, Port Blair**

**- E.Shruthi, Std.VII, Shrishti MS, Vellore**

**- V.Priya, Std.X, MESKK, Bengalooru**

**- V.Ganga, Std.IX, S.I.A HS, Mumbai**

**- Raghavi Krishnan, Std.VII, Thakur Public School, Mumbai**

Obeying the rules out of fear of punishments is quite unhealthy, since it does not promote a change in the true colour of an individual. Moreover it may affect a person physically or mentally. Counselling or other means, should be adopted to communicate that ranking oneself a notorious person does not dignify him among his mates.

**- R.Archana, Std.X, T.V.S.M.H.S.S, Madurai**

**- Utsav Kumar, Std.VIII, Dewan Public School, Mawana (UP)**

Instead of punishments, a system of looked upon by character classes can be used. Three character classes would be acceptable. The fourth character class would mean the child's marks will be deducted. Parents should also be informed of this method.

**- Shradhaa, Std.V, Primrose School, Pondy**

"Rules are meant to be broken" is the motto! Children disobey when they are not comfortable with a particular rule. Light punishment is acceptable but strict punishment should be avoided.

**- Swagatika, Std.IX, Kendriya Vidyalaya I.I.T, Chennai**

**- C.V. Shruthi, Std.IX, Amrita Vidyalayam, Coimbatore**

**-T.M.Shilpa, Std.IX, Hindu Colony Chellammal Vidyalaya, Chennai**

**- R.Ashwath, Std.V, SBOA M.H.S.S, Coimbatore**

Instead of punishments, some purposeful work like cleaning the shelves or boards or helping teachers in their chores may be given. This will instill a sense of responsibility in students

and also help them to transform.

- M.Vishalini, Std.VI, KV, CLRI, Chennai
- S.Abhishiktha, Std.XII, V.Tech Junior College, Hyderabad
- H.Nirmal, Std.IX, Pon Vidyashram, Chennai

Children should not be punished, as it affects them mentally and they may develop hatred towards the elders.

- V.Surya, Std.XII, G.R.T. Mahalakshmi Vidyalaya Matriculation H.S.School, Chennai
- K.Karen, Std.IX, Nirmala M.H.S.S, Chidambaram.

Two recent incidents of teachers punishing students have proved fatal.

# Harshly!

The teachers are to be blamed, not the student. Children should not be given harsh punishments for breaking school rules.

- Karthik Venkatesan, Std.IX, The Hindu Senior Sec.School, Chennai
- J.Vijayalakshmi, Std.V, Devi M.H.S.S, Palani
- S.T.Sudharshan, Std.V, Bhavan's Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalaya, Secunderabad

I feel children should be punished in school for breaking rules but not to the extent of caning or beating. The student should not be scolded in front of the other students.

- Manasvini, Std.VI, P.S.Senior Secondary School, Chennai

A school is a place for children to get moulded in the right way. Good character is built by following certain rules and regulations. In case, the students break the rules, teachers can

correct them through kind advice. Punishment at a young age affects them psychologically and creates an aversion towards the teachers and school.

- S.Preethy, Std VII, Padma Seshadri S.S.School, Chennai
- V.Ramya, Std. XII, P.S.B.B.S.S.S Chennai

## Question for this month

*Is it right for kids to use cosmetics?*

*Send us your views by 15.12.2007. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non - residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@kalkiweekly.com)*

# Mango

**I)** Two mangoes fell from a tree,
They were seen by two.
But those two did not take the mangoes.
Another two went to take the fruits;
But those two didnot take them either.
But another two took the mangoes.
Those who took them, did not eat them.
A farmer saw this. He beat the two!
But they were not those who ate the mangoes!
Those who got the beating did not cry; but the other two cried.
Who were they all?

**II)** I am a ten letter compound word. I am a government institution. If you take away my first four letters, I become a place where everyone works. If you take away my last six letters, I become a pole! Come on! Who am I?

**- Megha Shrimali,**
**Std. X,**
**K.V.No.1, Vasco, Goa**

---

**Answers:**

I) Eyes saw the falling mangoes, legs went to take them. Hands took them but teeth and tongue ate them. Cheeks got the beating - and the eyes cried!

II) Post office

## Riddle-me-ree!

*"What does Tarzan sing at Christmas?"*

*"Jungle Bells!"*

*"Why is it cold during Christmas?"*

*"Because its in Decembrrrr!"*

**- S.Vismitha, Bengalooru**

*"How do you turn soup into gold?"*

*"Add twenty four carrots!"*

# Mess Up!

*"Where did the cat go when he lost his tail?"*

*"The retail store."*

*"How did Benjamin Franklin feel when he discovered electricity?"*

*"He was shocked!"*

*"What is a ghost's favourite ride at the carnival?"*

*"A Rollerghoster!"*

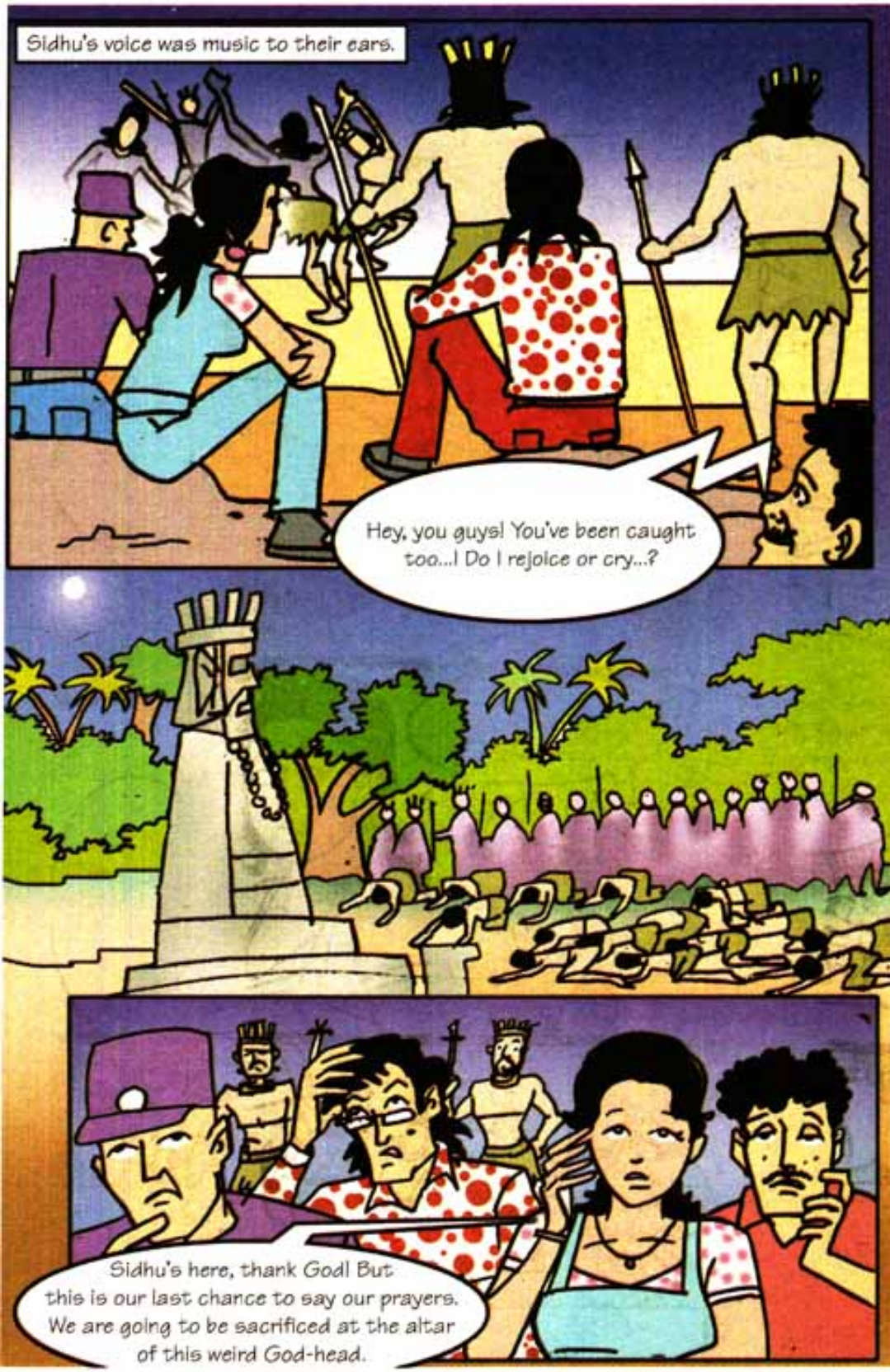
*"How did the patient get to the hospital so fast?"*

*"He just flu!"*

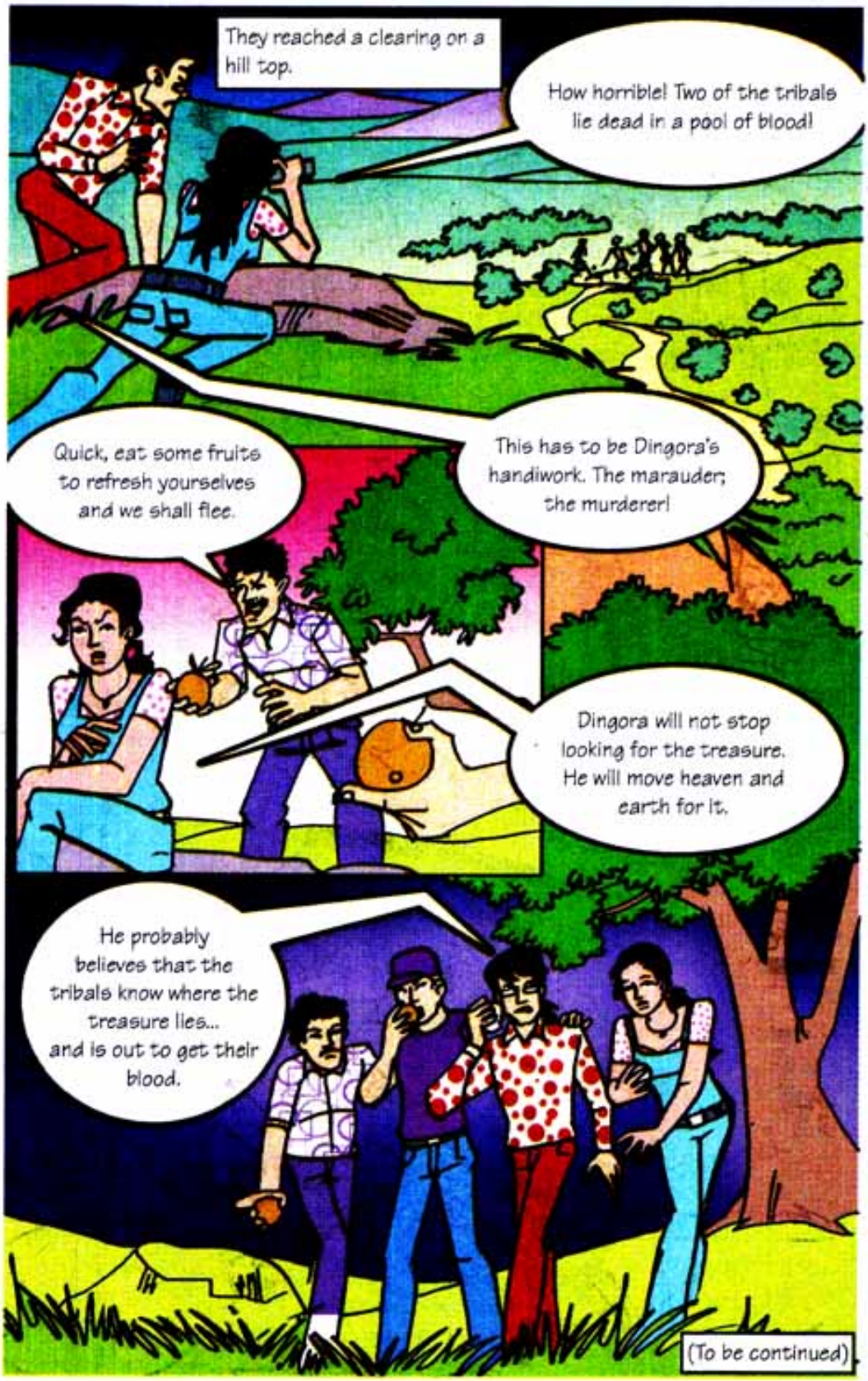
**- R.Lakshmi Priya, Std VI, Nirmala Rani English Primary School, Bengalooru**

# TREASURE AHOY! 6

Story, Pictures : Dharma


Sidhu's voice was music to their ears.
Hey, you guys! You've been caught too...! Do I rejoice or cry...?
Sidhu's here, thank God! But this is our last chance to say our prayers. We are going to be sacrificed at the altar of this weird God-head.

Bhandari was laid on the sacrificial stone.
"Oooh..."
They seem to be in some kind of danger.
Yes, and that has turned into our advantage. Bhandari is fortunate.
Yes, I know... Run ahead and don't wait for me. I am hurt badly, but will join you...
They ran for their lives...
Come, Let's get out of here before anything else happens.
Now or never. Sidhul are you okay. You have to run faster.


They reached a clearing on a hill top.
How horrible! Two of the tribals lie dead in a pool of blood!
This has to be Dingora's handiwork. The marauder; the murderer!
Quick, eat some fruits to refresh yourselves and we shall flee.
Dingora will not stop looking for the treasure. He will move heaven and earth for it.
He probably believes that the tribals know where the treasure lies... and is out to get their blood.
(To be continued)

# The Stormy

'Staying home alone is not a very difficult thing for me', I thought, feeling bold. I switched on the TV and sat on a chair. Mum had advised me to lock all the doors. I once again checked every door and sat before the TV.

"It is going to shower," said a small voice in my head. I tried shutting out the voice.... However, I could not get rid of it completely.....in a split second, I heard the roaring of thunder in the sky.

A menacing cloud appeared over my head - It seemed so threatening and real. "I told you it is going to rain," the voice started again! All of a sudden, there was a power-cut. Terror flooded me. I sat there, in the chair, dumb-struck. Not having the nerve to move, I remained there petrified. I could hear the pitter - patter of rain splattering on the windows and doors. I could clearly hear the whisper of leaves waving more rapidly.

Darkness spread outside and inside the house. There were no streetlights to give me a hope of movement. "Mum, Dad, come home! Please!" I begged them in a tiny whisper. They had gone to an important function leaving me all alone at home.

The rain grew stronger. One of the

# Night

loose windows, which I had not closed, slammed itself on the wall leaving me stunned.

I started praying. I had no choice, but praying without concentration seemed useless. There were three portraits of gods around me. 'Move! Go! Light up a candle! Move, you coward!' said a stronger voice in my head. I stood, moved my right leg. Then as slowly as the slowest reptile, I reached the other room, stretched my hands, and moved in random directions as though blind. I found the candle and matchbox

I struck a matchstick and got a tiny flick of light. Then I passed the fire to the candle. Luminous, I thought remembering chemistry. As I expected, the candle had given me a ray of courage. As I walked, I heard a strange noise at the back. Without second thought, I swung round and took the candle to the place from where the sound came. It was only a mouse; I was relieved. The tubelight suddenly came alive with a blinding flash, leaving a lurch of relief in my stomach!

And then... in came my parents. I hugged them as tight as I could. It was as though getting out of a deadly war into a peaceful country. After hearing my story, they all had a very hearty laugh.

I don't fear the dark any more; nor am I afraid of being alone. But I still remember that stormy night and laugh at myself.

– Sarada .K.

# Split-up and

The differences between Janata Dal(S) and B.J.P. seemed to get ironed out and Yeddiyurappa of BJP was to be sworn in as Chief Minister of Karnataka. However, just before he could seek a confidence vote in the assembly, the coalition partner Janata Dal (S) imposed several conditions. The BJP woul not accept them and the coalition broke up. Now is back to a 'governmentless' situation in Karnatak Behind all the patch-up and split-up lurks an ug and selfish agenda of power politics!

• • •

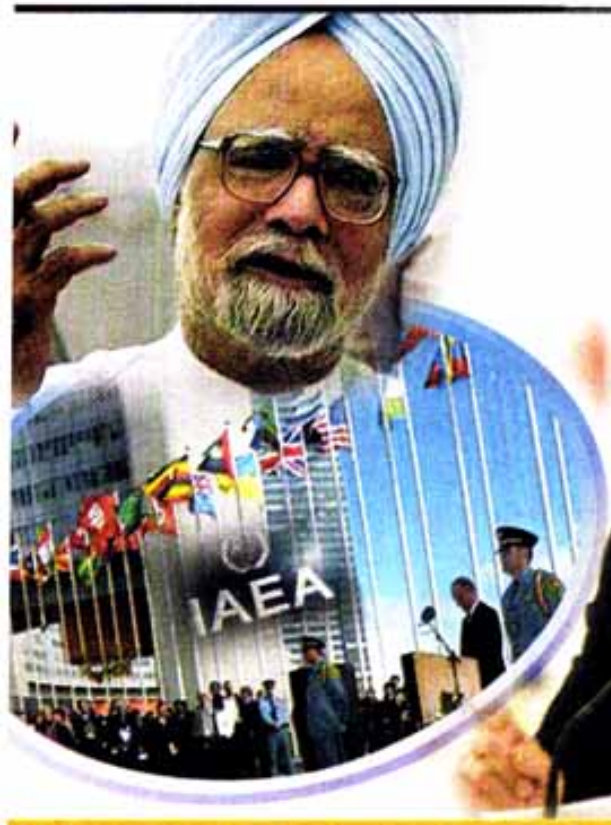
General Musharraf has declared a state of eme gency in Pakistan. He has put behind bars supren court judges and all opposition leaders includin Benazir Bhutto. Earlier he had allowed Benazir to come back to Pakistan while denying such permission to Nawaz Sharif. He is still saying that elections will be held soon but the whole world knows that the election he has in mind is totally undemocratic and that he wi become a self appointed President once again wiel ing absolute power. However the people Pakistan have not lost hope and are continuing the agitation.

• Patch up...

• • •

• Absolute power

Tamilchelvam, chief of the LTTE's polit cal wing was killed in an air-raid carried o by the Sri Lankan air force. His death is great blow to the LTTE. Though the LTT is banned in India, sympathisers Tamilnadu took out a procession to co dole Tamilchelvan's death and we promptly and understandably jaile However Chief Minister Karunanid himself has written a poem expres



# Patch-up Politics!

ng his sorrow over the death of the LTTE leader and naturally this has come in for sharp criticism from many quarters including his alliance partner the Congress.

• • •

The Prime Minister's visit to Russia has not achieved much. The agreement for nuclear co-operation has been put in cold storage. Russia wants our country to start a dialogue with I.A.E.A. (International Atomic Energy Agency, which supervises nuclear establishments to prevent the misuse of atomic energy for making weapons of mass destruction.) Earlier the U.S.A. had insisted on the same in respect of the nuclear deal with them. But the communists in India had vehemently opposed this condition saying that it amounted to curbing the sovereignty of our country. But now, they have changed their view and made an "about turn" to suit Mr.Putin!

• Dead in an air raid

## Penpals

*Name:* **T.E.L.Kesav Reddy**
*Age :* 15
*Address :* A/28, I.R.E. Housing Colony, Matikhalo, Ganjam, Orissa - 761 045.
*Hobbies :* Cycling, playing basketball, surfing, watching Harry Potter movies repeatedly and reading Harry Potter books.

*Name:* **A.V.Shiva Seshasai**
*Age :* 12
*Address :* 2-2-23/49, SBH Colony, Bagh Amberpet, Hyderabad - 500 013, Andhra Pradesh.
*Hobbies :* Reading English magazines and novels, playing cricket and football.

*Name:* **Nafla Salahudeen**
*Age :* 14
*Address :* No.14 - 15, Gampola Road, Nawalapitiya, Sri Lanka.
*Hobbies :* Reading books, drawing, collecting stamps.

*Name:* **C.Raja**
*Age :* 15
*Address :* 3, Middle lane, Sekkalai, Karaikudi - 630 002.
*Hobbies :* Collecting stamps, coins, chatting, surfing the net, playing computer games, social service.

*Name:* **D. Ancy Steffila Fernando**
*Age :* 12
*Address :* 5/143, Workers Estate, Neelankarai, Chennai - 600 041.
*Hobbies :* Reading, watching T.V, playing video games, playing badminton and cycling.

*Name:* **Suraj Kumar Rout**
*Age :* 12
*Address :* Plot No.2, Phase 3, Adarsh Vihar, Bhubaneswar
*Hobbies:* Reading Books playing games, watching movies and chatting.

*Name:* **Priya Pasily**
*Age :* 12
*Address :* 127, Car Street Thelaspet, Puducherry - 9.
*Hobbies :* Dancing, singing cycling, reading, listening to music.

*Name:* **S.Vismitha**
*Age :* 13
*Address :* Old No.19/1, 15th Cross, 6th temple street Malleshwaram, Bangalore - 560 003.
*Hobbies :* Surfing the net playing, reading books, watching movies, writing poems and shopping.

*Name:* **A.N. Shankar**
*Age :* 17

*Address :* Milt Residential School, Old Vishnu Sadan, Simuitala P.O, Jamui district, Bihar - 811 316.

*Hobbies :* Reading books, writing poems, making friends, playing games like football, cricket, T.T, Basket ball.

*Name:* **Ashish. J.K,**

*Age :* 16

*Address :* 3738, Vijayanagar house, Sainik School, Bijapur - 586 102. Karnataka.

*Hobbies :* Making friends, horse riding, swimming, reading novels, magazines.

*Name:* **D. Hareeprasad**

*Age :* 14

*Address :* 86, Inamdhar Thoopu, Thennur, Trichy - 17.

*Hobbies :* Sports, playing video games, chess, carrom, chatting with my sister, watching T.V.

*Name:* **K.R.B.Dhaarani**

*Age :* 14

*Address :* 2870, 'Y' Block, 3rd Street, 12th Main Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600 040.

*Hobbies :* Reading books, collecting coins and stamps, reading Harry Potter.

*Name:* **A. Sireesha**

*Age :* 14

*Address :* Std.IX, Jawahar Navodaya Vidydalya, Dadri, Dhoom Manikpur, G.B.Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 203 207

*Hobbies :* Playing volleyball, singing and dancing, making friends, surfing the net, reading Nancy Drew and Enid Blyton books, eating chocolates.

*Name:* **Shyam Lama**

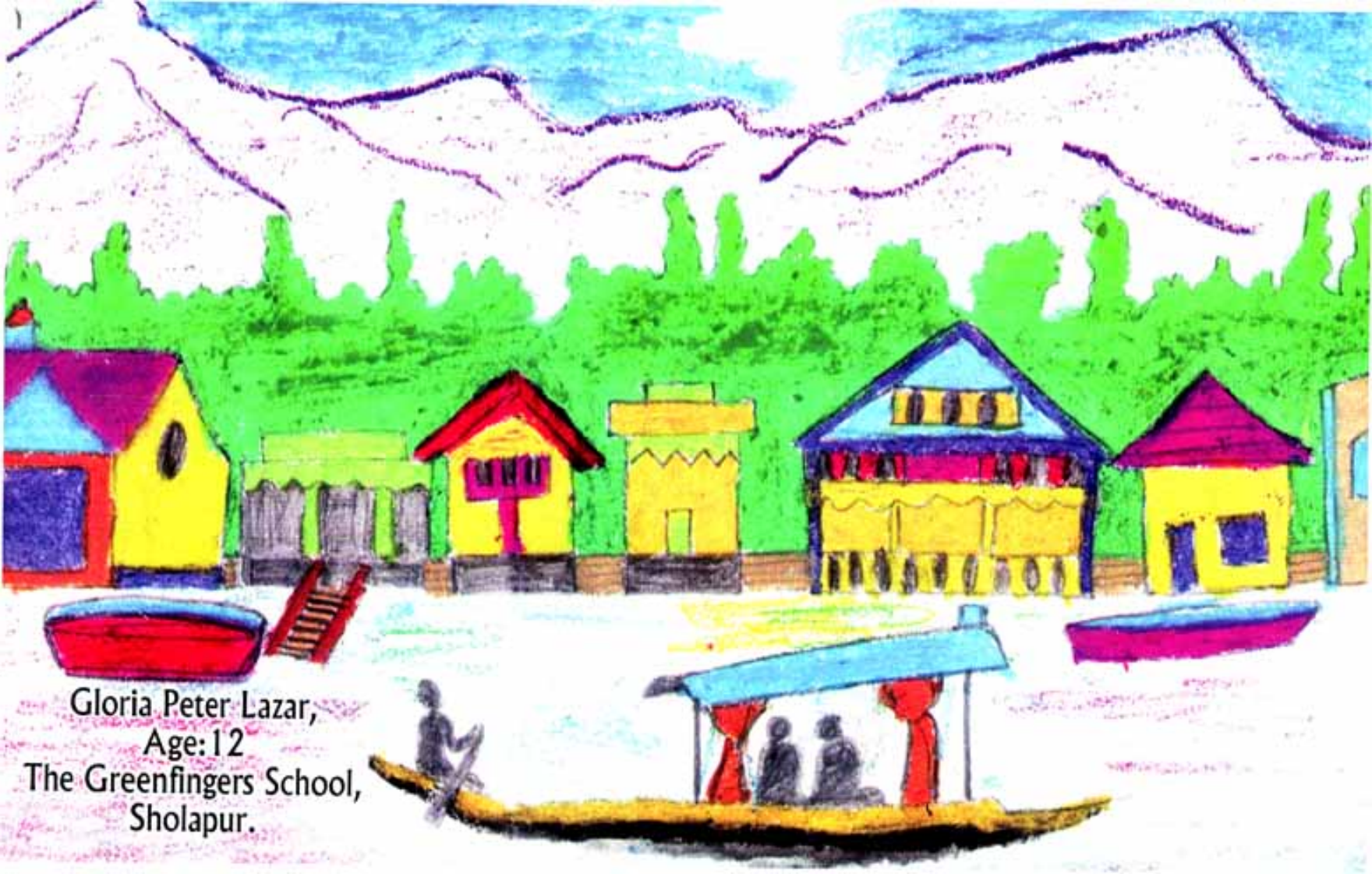
*Age :* 17

*Address :* Milt Residential School, Old Vishnu Sadan, P.O. Simultala, Jamui Dist. Bihar-813 116

*Hobbies :* Listening to music, watching movies, collecting CDs, collecting letters, coins, dancing, shopping, making friends and helping people.

# BILLU

Story, Pictures
PILLAI



Gloria Peter Lazar,
Age: 12
The Greenfingers School,
Sholapur.

Registered with the Registrar of Newspaper of India under No. 49668/88 * Registered No. TN/CC(S)DN/107/06-08 * License to post without prepayment under PMG's Licence No. WPP TN/CC(S)DN/44/06-08 * Registered as a Newspaper in Srilanka

MILKA

WONDER CAKE

IN SIX DELICIOUS FLAVOURS